

T H E
Female DESERTERS.
A
NOVEL.

By the AUTHOR of The
LOVER'S WEEK.

*O happy State! when Souls each other draw,
When Love is Liberty, and Nature, Law :
All then is full, possessing, and possest,
No craving Void left aking in the Breast :
Ev'n Thought meets Thought e'er from the Lips it
part,
And each warm Wisth springs mutual from the Heart.*

POPE.

L O N D O N :

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THE
Female Dressmakers.
A
NOVEL.



LONDON

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MDCCLXXXIII



T O

John Rawlinson Esq;

Captain of His Majesty's Guards.

S I R,

IT has been well
observed by a
celebrated Wri-
ter, * *That there is a
Pleasure in owning Obli-
gations which it is an Ho-
nour to have received; and*
a 2 with

* *Mr. ADDISON'S Dedicat. to his Travels.*

X

DEDICATION.

with this just Sentiment,
I am not a little proud of
joining my Concurrence.

I make not the least
Question, but when the
censorious World shall
find your Name prefixed
(as *Shakespear* calls it) to
this *Woman's-Toy*, they
will presently apply a
malicious Construction to
the Favours which I here
gratefully acknowledge
to have received; though
at the same time it gives
me no small Pleasure to
think, that the *Viper* will
be employed in gnawing
upon

DEDICATION.

upon the File of Innocent *Friendship*, which, if truly placed, the Philosophers hold to be inseparable.

And now, Sir, give me leave to assure you, that I esteem no one Virtue, among the many you possess, half so much as that *open Sincerity*, I have in several Instances experienced of *You*; and I hope I shall be ranked among the Number of your best Friends, when I wish it may be always found the most *conspicuous part of*
your

DEDICATION.

*your Character; then will
you deservedly share the
Praise, which Mr. Addi-
son, in his Immortal Cam-
paign, ascribes to his Mili-
tary Heroes.*

*Rais'd of themselves, their genuine Charms
they boast,*

*And those who paint them truest, praise them
most.*

M. H.



VERSES writ in the
blank Leaf of a Novel,
call'd The LOVER'S
WEEK, presented to a
Young LADY.

To the BOOK.

G O, gentle *Book*, soft Thoughts inspire,
And tell my *Love*, thy Master's
Fire,

If *She* approve *Thy* well writ Flame,

Then tell her *Mine*, is just the same :

And since my Nymph outvies in Charms,

The Fair who fills *Philander's* Arms,

Intreat the lovely beauteous *She*,

To be as merciful to Me.

VERSES, *sent with the*
LOVER'S WEEK, *to*
the Dutcheß of B-----.

MAY each dear *She*, like *Amaryllis*
kind,

'A Passion equal to *Philander's* find.

Let *spiteful Maidens*, talkatively chaste,

Condemn those Joys they *Slily* wish to taste;

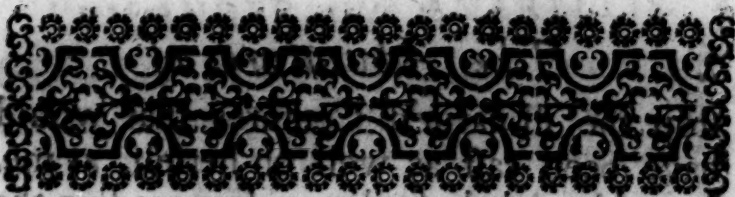
Whilst the *fair Nymph* whom no false

Fears restrain,

Folds in her tender Arms *th' Enamour'd*
Swain:

Each happy Minute, new Delights they
prove,

'And, tho' on Earth, enjoy the Bliss of *Saints*
above.



THE
SEQUEL
OF THE
ADVENTURES
OF
Philander and Amaryllis;
With the AMOURS of
Calista and Torismond.

My dear EMILIA,

I Received your obliging Letter, which gave me the greatest Satisfaction imaginable on two Accounts, first, to hear my dearest Friend was in Health; and secondly, that the Town were so silent at my Departure. I am glad my Aunt has the good Nature to excuse me to the Publick in the manner you tell me, and must needs say, she has taken the most prudent Method that could be, to

B

stop

stop the ill-natur'd Censures that would have been cast as well on herself, as me. I could not help smiling, after reading the serious Part of your Letter, to find you had a Mind to be merry with the Duke of A——, for believe me what you say of his Grace's having been Melancholy ever since my Absence, I can't think to be any other than a Banter on myself, as well as his Lordship; for could I be so vain as to fancy any Charms I am Mistress of, would have that force to make his Grace entertain one serious Thought of me longer than I was present, I believe I might think I had done more than all the fine Women he ever made love to, and for ought I know, that is as many as the whole Body of Noblemen belonging to the Court beside, tho' some of them are pretty Amorous. As to his taxing me with using him ill, in unfairly leaving him, I am sure by so doing he accuses me very wrongfully; since I never gave any countenance to his Addresses, but on the contrary always laughed at them, which you yourself very well know. But allowing his Melancholy to be real, (and for once to oblige you, I will admit of the possibility of a thing, that in my own Judgment seems very improbable) the best Advice I can give his Grace to divert his Spleen, is to renew his Addres-
ses

PHILANDER *and* AMARYLLIS. 3

ses to fine Mrs *L—*, and retire with her to some agreeable Country-Seat, by which means he'll not only do Justice to that injured Fair, whose Heart he has so long engaged, (that it seems impossible any new Object should find a Place, notwithstanding the many Addresses which are daily offered to her, so natural is it to our Sex to be constant; altho' the frequent Examples we have to the contrary in the other Sex, of which I think no one can be more guilty than his Grace of *A—*) but add to his other good Qualities, that of Justice to a Lady, whose Affections he well knows he was some time in gaining. As to my quitting the Town without taking leave of you, I hope you'll no longer believe it was from any want of that Respect you say I always express'd to you, and which I assure you was real, (for no Body deserves more than yourself) but from the hurry I was in; all my time being taken up with the Man, whose every Hours Conversation makes him appear still more agreeable; or employed in providing Necessaries for my Journey; my coming from Home without a design of staying, having wholly deprived me of an Opportunity of taking any of my Cloaths. This I think will be a convincing Argument to you of my Intention to return to my Aunt's,

which you are pleased to say you think I no ways design'd, tho' I don't in the least repent my not doing it: since by my flight with the Man I like, I have not only freed myself from a Marriage with the Brigadier, but it has hind'ed us both from giving the Town a vast deal of Pleasure by becoming their Jest. For I am sure I am so little used to counterfeit, that my want of Love to him would have been so publick to every Body, as to have drawn upon him the Ridicule of his Friends, and made me liable to the Censure of the World, who are glad of all Opportunities to shew their ill Nature. And now I have given you these Reasons, I hope you'll no longer resent it as any want of Respect or Friendship in me; for I would have you believe, there is no Person Breathing, who holds that Virtue more sacred, as what I am now going to attempt, will sufficiently shew, when, to oblige you with a Description of my *Philander*, I fear I shall do an Injustice to the dear Man who deserves so much. But since you are desirous of it, I shall enter on a Task which is much fitter for a more Masterly Hand. I will however give you his Character in the best Manner I am capable, since I can assure you he wants no Flattery to set him off, nor can Envy or Detraction rob him of the many Perfections he is possess'd of.

PHILANDER *and* AMARYLLIS. 5

of. As to his Person he is neither tall nor short, of a fair Complexion, but not in the least Effeminate; he has sprightly black Eyes, dark Eye-brows, good Teeth, a handsome Mouth, well-turn'd Limbs, a beautiful Hand, and in fine all things that can make a Man every way agreeable. Nor is this regular Structure defective of any Ornaments requisite for compleating a fine Gentleman; Nature having liberally endued him with good Sense, and those bright natural Parts have been so well cultivated by Travel and the care of his Tutors, that he may, without any Imputation of Flattery, be said to be that Person whose Conversation is generally coveted by all who know him, and none can enjoy it without improving by it. I shall say no more, only, that *Philander* is fit either for Court or Camp, as he has sufficiently prov'd, when his Counsel at Home or Sword abroad have been required. Nor is he less entertaining in the Conversation of the Ladies, or wherever he has a Mind to exert himself; for as he has all the Gallantry of a Soldier, with the Gravity of a Statesmen, so none can better assume the soft Tenderness of a Lover: Thus have I, in the best Manner I am able, impartially given you a Description of my Charmer, and hope now you have read it, you'll
cease

6 *The Adventures of*

cease to blame me for quitting the noisy Impertinence of the Town, to enjoy a pleasing Solitude with the Man, whose Company alone is sufficient to make all Places entertaining. What I fear, is, you'll tax me with a Crime in robbing the Publick of a Person who is every way so extremely serviceable to it; but I would not have you think I retain so small a Respect for my Country, as wholly to deprive it of so valuable a Subject as my *Philander*. I will rather content myself to be sometimes debarred from his most delightful Converse, and in his Absence divert myself in my Gardens, which are extreme neat, or with a Lady whose Company is very agreeable, and her Circumstances differ but little from my own, as living with the Gentleman I told you of in my last, who came to sup with us. She is pretty, and has a great share of Wit, which makes her Company not only vastly entertaining, but wonderfully desir'd. I don't know any one I have met with of our own Sex, whose Conversation I have liked so well, since I enjoyed yours, and hope it will not be long e'er I shall have the satisfaction of returning again to you with him, and thereby letting you both see and be convinc'd, that what I write is not the effect of a blind Passion, which I know not but at this distance

you

PHILANDER *and* AMARYLLIS. 7

you being unacquainted with him may believe, unless the Description I have given of *Philander* (faint as it is) should be sufficient to make a discovery of the Person, there being very few who enjoy those many excellent Qualities with which he is so largely endued. The Lady I before mentioned, having given me a detail of her Amour with great freedom, I shall for your Amusement send you the Relation just as she delivered it to me; but hope you'll not tax me with Breach of Friendship to her for so doing, since I design nothing more by it than your Diversion, without either exposing the Lady or her Lover: To avoid which, I shall give you her Story under the borrowed Names of *Calista* and *Torismond*; as she with a great deal of Freedom told it me one Day after Dinner, in the Absence of my dear *Philander*, whose Affairs called him to Court.

When we had drank Tea, I propos'd taking a Turn in the Garden, which being consented to; My dear *Calista*, says I, now I must require the Performance of your Promise in obliging me with an Account of your Amour with my Lord S—, a Favour I could not have asked, had not you yourself first offered it. The Reason of my retiring hither, is to avoid our being
over-

overheard by any of my Servants; and should we find it too cold in the open Seats, I am perswaded it will be warm enough in the Banqueting-House, from whence we shall have the Prospect of *London*, without the Noise and Smoke of it. So, I ordering my Woman to bring me my Knotting, after we had taken a Turn or two, and admired the various Beauties of the Summer, with the nice Contrivances of my Gardiner, whose Ingenuity was no small Addition to the Works of Nature, (for we were infinitely pleased with a Green-walk, enamell'd on each side with all Sorts of Flowers that the Season affords, which not only charmed the Eye, but gave a delightful Smell: At the upper end of this Walk was the Banqueting-House, where being seated and enjoying the cool Breezes, which made the Odours of the Garden still more grateful;) *Calista* thus began the Relation of her Adventures.





The Amours of CALISTA and
TORISMOND.

DEAR *Amaryllis*, since you so earnestly request to know the Occasion of my quitting our Family, and all things that ought to be held dear to me, I shall make no difficulty of recounting to you my whole Amour just as it happen'd, but am afraid it will not be in my power to bring it within the Compass of this Afternoon's Conversation; and, I doubt, the tedious melancholy Part of my Story will rather prove Tiresome than Entertaining. I beg'd her not to make any farther Apology, but proceed to give me a Relation of what I was sure could not but be well worth my hearing, she being so principal an Actor in it. She then, without any more reserve, assum'd her Discourse in this manner: I am Daughter to Sir C. W——, who, in the late Reign, was remarkable for his Zeal to the Government, and enjoy'd some Places of Distinction; but all publick Affairs taking a different Turn, by the Death of her Majesty, he threw up his Offices, and resolv'd (as soon as possible) to retire

C

with

with his Family to a Seat we had about Threescore Miles from *London*; and after he had so contriv'd his Business, that he knew how much longer it would detain him here to finish it, he made us acquainted with his Design, and order'd us by that Time to provide every thing necessary for our Journey, in three Weeks time at farthest. This Resolution of my Father surpriz'd me so much, that it almost depriv'd me of my Senses, I having contracted a Friendship with my Lord S—— which his frequent Visits to my Father (when in Place) had given us an Opportunity unsuspected to carry on; and the very Thoughts of being forc'd to quit the Town, during my Lord's Absence, who was at his Country-Seat, almost distracted me, for I thereby fear'd I should never have an opportunity of seeing or hearing from him any more: Thus disorder'd in my Mind, I could not tell what to do, to let him know soon enough how to prevent it: After I had fretted for some time, and could come to no Determination, I at length thought it my best way to let my Woman into the Knowledge of my Father's Design. She had a share of good Sense, was very well Bred and Faithful, and one who I did not believe was originally designed for Service, as I had often
told

CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. II

told her; but could get no other Reply from her, than that her Father was ruined by his Loyalty among others, who had follow'd the Fortunes of King *James II.* Thus, by making her a Partner in my Misfortune, if I could not alter my Fate, it would be some Comfort to me to think my Trouble would be the more supportable this way; nor was my Love to *Torismond* (for so I shall now call him) unknown to her, she having carry'd Billets between us for some time, not daring to trust any other Servant. I therefore immediately called *Isabella* to me (for that was her Name); the moment she enter'd the Room, she perceived by my Countenance that something had ruffled and chagrin'd me, and without giving me the Opportunity to begin with her, Lord! Madam, says she, what ails you, are you not well? To which I reply'd with a Sigh, were but my Mind, *Isabella*, in as good a State of Health as my Body, I should not at this time require your Assistance, wherein if you do not aid me with your best Invention, it will, I fear, be of the most fatal Consequence to me. I then proceeded to tell her, that my Father design'd to leave the Town within three Weeks, and beg'd of her some way or other to find out a Stratagem to retard my Stay for some

C 2

time,

time, or it would be impossible for me ever to see or hear of *Torismond* more, concluding, that my Father intended to have so strict a Guard over all my Actions, that it would not be in my power to carry on this Amour without its coming to his Knowledge; and without *Torismond*, Life's a Burden! Thus did I run on, not giving her leave to answer, but again repeated my Request, that she would think of some Expedient to remove from me these distracting Thoughts. Madam, says she, the Honour you do me in thinking my Advice of any Use, overpays all Services I can do you; but I beg you to make yourself easy, and cease to rack your Breast; let not imaginary Pains torment you, since I can tell you fifty Methods of evading your Father's expeditious Departure.

I was pleas'd at what she said, but could not think of one of those many Excuses she talk'd of, therefore desir'd her to tell me any thing that she thought might be of service to me; which she readily did, but, alas! to no purpose, for what she mention'd, I knew would not pass with my Father, who is of a very resolute Temper, and not easily imposed upon. This put me into fresh Inquietudes; she perceiving me more uneasy than before, seem'd much

con-

CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. 13

concerned, but ceased not still to encourage me, by saying, She did not in the least fear, if I would give her time to consider, but that some lucky Thought would come into her Head. Whilst we were talking, one of our Men brought me word that the Dutchess of M—— and the Lady W—— were come to visit me; this put an end to any farther Discourse between *Isabella* and myself at that time: For my part, I was so uneasy in my Mind as not to be fit to entertain them, and I dreaded being teased to death by the fantastick Impertinence of the Dutchess of M—— however, by *Isabella's* Persuasion I waited on them. As soon as their Visit was over, and I thought myself released, I was attacked by my Father, who, notwithstanding I had been as careful as possible to hide my Uneasiness from him, found it out. *Calista*, says he, what is the Reason, that ever since I have talked of going out of Town, you have been so uneasy. I told him he was mistaken, my Uneasiness, as he was pleas'd to call it, proceeded from my Indisposition, which I had endeavour'd to assuage by Company, but found it ineffectual; I therefore beg'd leave to retire to my Chamber, thinking, by this feigned Illness, I should at least keep myself from the Visits that the Talk of our quitting *London* would occasion,

sion, all Company growing troublesome to me, as every thing did, that diverted my Thoughts one moment from *Torismond*, whose Absence made him appear with fresh Charms. The good old Gentleman, my Father, was much concern'd, no longer doubting the Truth of what I said, and would immediately have sent for a Physician, which he was always for doing on the smallest Occasion; but I would not consent to that, and was rather for trying what Rest would do, therefore I took my leave of him for that Night. After he had committed me to the Charge of *Isabella*, when we came into my Chamber, Madam, says she, your feigned Illness is the only thing you could have thought on to keep you from going, therefore besure to carry it on; and I would advise you to consent to the Visit of a Physician, there is no doubt but you will be put to your own Choice of one, therefore I would have you send for Sir S. G—th, who may be of service to us, he being very intimate with my Lord S—, and, I dare say, will be glad of this opportunity to oblige him. I could not for my Life give into her Project, and told her that I believed Sir *Samuel* the most improper Person in the World, to expect any assistance from in a Love-Affair, he being now in his Decline, and long since a
Stranger

CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. 15

Stranger to Gallantry, tho' I am very well assur'd no Body has had more Business of that kind ; then, he is of a stern and morose Temper, and, perhaps, should I make him acquainted with my Esteem for *Torismond*, it may only serve for a Diversion to him, without being of any Service to me. *Isabella* beg'd me not to torment myself with these groundless Fears, for she was assur'd the Doctor was a Man of more Honour than to expose a Lady, if he would not serve her ; besides, says she, the Respect he bears my Lord S—— will keep him from that, since he can't talk of you without exposing his Lordship. After she had made me easy as to this Matter, I told her I had Thoughts of writing to *Torismond*, though at the same time I mentioned it, this Fear immediately started into my Head : Suppose, says I, *Torismond's* Love should not be real, and that the Professions he made were only for a present Amusement, which, since his Absence, are quite erased from his Memory, then, my writing to him, will but lay me open to his Scorn : No ! I will conquer myself, and rather dye in silence, than put it into the power of a Man to slight me, they being all too apt to do so when they have gained their Conquest.

After

After I had done speaking, Madam, says *Isabella*, I wonder you should give way to these weak Suspicions, since my Lord's frequent Letters, which you have done me the Honour to show me, sufficiently demonstrate that his Professions of Love are real, and not the Effects of a present Amusement, as you are pleas'd to call it; I therefore beg you not to torture yourself with such Notions as have not the least colour of Reason in them: Besides, Madam, you may write to my Lord, without giving him the least opportunity of suspecting your Love for him: You having Books of his, may let him know where to send for them; your going out of Town, you believe, will put it wholly out of your power of conversing any farther with him, therefore thought in justice, you ought to restore what was only lent you. This will sufficiently alarm him, without exposing you, and will no doubt bring him to Town with all Expedition.

We passed the whole Night in talk, without coming to any Resolution: In the Morning, very early, my Father came into my Chamber, having been disturbed all Night by his Concern for me; when he approach'd my Bed, he seem'd much surpriz'd, saying, My Dear, I fear you are
worse

CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. 17

worse than you imagine, therefore I desire you not by your own Obstinacy to throw away your Life; I am resolved to send for a Physician, therefore (as I know Fancy prevails in a great measure with your Sex in every thing) if there be any particular one you have a mind to, I would have you speak. I told him I had heard much in praise of Sir S. G—th, therefore would have him sent for; my Choice had the Success to meet with his good Approbation, and he immediately order'd a Servant to go for him; he then sat down, told me he would stay till the Doctor came, and would have talked with me; but finding me not inclinable, and *Isabella* telling him she fear'd it would do me a Prejudice, he was silent.

In half an Hour the Servant returned, and with him the Doctor, who came to the Bed-side; after feeling my Pulse, and asking a thousand Questions, he proceeded to give his Opinion of my Distemper, saying, It was an inward Fever, and if there was not a great deal of Care, as well as Skill employ'd, it might cost me my Life; he therefore, with a decent Gravity, writ his Prescription, and order'd it immediately to be carried to the Apothecary, saying, My Indisposition was worse than was ima-

D

gined

gined by those about me : After receiving his Fee, he took his leave, with a Promise of visiting me again in the Afternoon. As to my Distemper, I agreed with the Doctor, but at the same time thought it was not his Prescriptions that would be of any service to me. After his Departure my Father left the Room; at his going, *Isabella* beg'd he would give orders that no Visitors should be admitted, telling him the last Words the Doctor said to her, was, that I should be kept as still as possible. When we were again alone, and in no danger of being over-heard, or disturbed by any Body, *Isabella* and I laughed at our imposing on the Doctor's Skill; but, says I, what shall we do with the Apothecary's Stuff, which I suppose we shall be loaded with abundantly? She bid me not concern myself about that, but leave it to her, and proceed in my writing to *Torismond*; however inclinable I was to follow her Advice, yet I could not for a time overcome some Difficulties that came into my Mind; thus Love and Reason, like a Fever and Ague, took their alternate Turns in my Breast; at length the first prevail'd, and I wrote to him. A Repetition of the Letter, My dear *Amaryllis*, is no way material, it being only to let him know of my quitting the Town; when I had seal'd it, a greater

Difficul-

CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. 19

Difficulty arose than had yet offer'd, for now it was writ, I could not tell how to have it convey'd to the Post-House, we having no Servant I dared to trust with a Secret of such Importance, and feared, should *Isabella* be the Messenger, (she having taken it upon her to attend me) it would cause a Suspicion: This fretted me beyond expressing, when *Isabella*, who was my good Genius in all things, thought of this Expedient. To prevent the least Surmise, says she, that my going out privately may occasion, I will go to your Father and ask him where the Doctor lives, letting him know, that you have forgot to tell him something that nearly concerns you, nor will you trust any one else to go to him for fear of a Mistake. I approved her Thought, and desired her to make what hast she could, thinking the Company of any other Person would be troublesome to me; for that she, by indulging my Weakness, gave some Relief to my Pain, which, without her, had been insupportable. To avoid the Impertinences of the Wench that was to wait on me till the Return of *Isabella*, I pretended myself asleep, though indeed I had the greatest difficulty that could be to suppress my Sighs, for I really suffer'd all the wracking Pains imaginable for the Absence of my dear *Torismond*.

Calista perceiving that her Discourse had moved a more than ordinary Concern in me, with a world of good Nature, said, My dear *Amaryllis*, I am sorry that I should be the Occasion of giving you any Disorder; for, I'll assure you, my whole Design in this Relation was only to divert your Melancholy, till the Return of your beloved *Philander*, who, I hope, will this Night make you happy, since I see all the Satisfaction of your Life is entirely placed in his Conversation. She then made a full Stop in expectation of my Answer; which, so soon as I had a little recover'd myself, I returned to her in this manner: Madam, I not only beg pardon for this Interruption, but at the same time blush at the Discovery of my own Folly, and hope, as you know what Torment it is to be separated from the Object of our Affections, you will the more easily excuse this Weakness in me; therefore pray go on to relate your Amours, which I shall take as a singular Favour, if it be not troublesome to you. Upon which, *Calista* resumed her Discourse, and said, Since it is your Desire I should proceed in my Story, I shall neither scruple doing that or any thing else which may oblige you. I told you with difficulty I feign'd myself asleep; but in
an

CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. 21

an Hour's time, or thereabouts, to my great Relief, I heard *Isabella* knocking at the Door: As soon as ever she came into the Room, she dismissed my other Servant, being impatient to let me know what she had done in my Affair; when she found we were alone, and had carefully examined that no Body was nigh enough to over-hear her, Madam, said she, I have done a thing without your Permission, for which I humbly ask your Pardon, but hope you'll not be angry with me for it, since it will not only release you from abundance of Trouble and Vexation, which you must otherwise unavoidably have undergone, but was of absolute necessity for the carrying on of our Design. I bid her quickly put me out of Pain, and tell me what it was she feared my Anger for, because I did not believe she would do any thing willingly to deserve it: To ease my Impatience, she told me she had been with Sir S. G—th, and acquainted him with my real Distemper (which he was before an absolute Stranger to, notwithstanding his formal Prescriptions). This Proceeding of hers not only surpriz'd me, but put me into such a violent Passion, that I would not let her go on with her Story, but charg'd her to be dumb, since she had already said enough to convince me she had studied my
Ruin.

Ruin: I told her I wonder'd how she dur'd offer to do any such thing without my Privy and Consent. After I had spoke all that my Anger suggested to me, I carry'd my Resentment so far as to bid her quit my Presence, nor would I suffer her to make me the least Reply. I then began to blame my own Imprudence, for putting it into her Power thus to expose me, no longer doubting but my Love for *Torismond* would become the publick Talk of the Town, and myself their Jest: Thus did I for some time suffer myself to be transported by an over-heated Passion, whilst poor *Isabella* was no less confounded; but notwithstanding my Commands to the contrary, she ventur'd in to me, though not without the utmost fear of farther offending, and shew'd all the Concern imaginable, to see the Disorder I was in. She would fain have excused herself, by giving me the Reasons which prompted her to do so; but my Passion for some time would not let me hearken to her: At length, considering that what she had done could no way be retrieved, and that all I had now to do, was to prepare myself against the Attacks I expected on this Occasion; I charged her to tell me what could be the Motive that induced her to act thus foolishly, since she had often heard me say, I
would

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would keep my Passion for *Torismond* a Secret, even if it should cost me my Life. When I had done speaking, Madam, said she, as you know I have no Will but what is entirely devoted to your Service, so I question not, but when I have set this Matter in a clear light, you will not only approve of my Proceedings, but thank me for what I have done: Having by this heighten'd my Expectation, she thus went on: Enquiring of your Father concerning the Doctor, he immediately told me where he liv'd, and bid me hasten to him, that nothing might be left unconsulted that could contribute to your Health: He seem'd indeed much concern'd for you, and said, *Isabella*, I would have you desire Sir *Samuel* not to fail coming to Night, since I am resolved to leave the Town in a Day or two at farthest, if he does not advise to the contrary, for, I believe, the Change of Air may be of service to your Mistress. I pretended to submit to his Opinion, but at the same time determin'd within myself, if possible, to prevent this design'd Journey, and therefore strait went to the Doctor, fearing he should agree to it likewise, if by a timely Notice he was not let into the secret Cause of your Indisposition; nor could I venture to return to your Ladyship to ask your Permission for so doing, without giving

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Suspicion to your Father. And considering that your Affairs could not admit of any delay, and that it was impossible for me to come at you, to advise you to speak to the Doctor yourself, or, if I could see you, I should find too powerful Arguments against your making this Discovery to him; the first was your Modesty, which I could not believe would suffer you to tell him; or if you could overcome that, that you might not have an Opportunity to do it, therefore having duly weigh'd the Matter, I thought fit no longer to defer this Discovery, on which the future Happiness of your Life so much depended; and I dare pawn my Soul for the Doctor's Fidelity in the Case, as well as for his Readiness to do you what Service he can, which he desired me to assure you of, and that he would not fail waiting on you this Afternoon; at the same time bidding me to acquaint you, that if you would write a Letter, one of his Servants should carry it to *Torismond*, and that he should take it as a Favour if you would so far confide in his Honour, as to entrust him in the **Affair**: Nor, added he, would I have her believe it any Obligation, since I am resolved to send my Lord word of her Father's hasty Resolution of carrying her out of Town, because I am sure he will account it the greatest

CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. 25

greatest Friendship I can do him at this Distance; and indeed I have so true a Value for him, that I would not for the World see him torn by those Passions which the Loss of your Lady would throw him into; for I assure you I am no Stranger to the Love he bears her, therefore I beg she would follow his Example, in making use of me as well for a Friend as for a Physician, in both which Stations I shall be proud of serving her. After he had expressed himself in this handsome Manner, and declared he would send a Footman, I made no longer doubt of his Design in serving you to the utmost of his Power, and therefore gave him your Letter, which he readily took, and bid me tell you, that as soon as ever he had dispatch'd his Message to *Torismond*, which should be forthwith, he would wait on you, and in the mean time beg'd you would make yourself easy, for that he no ways question'd but every thing would succeed according to your best Wishes. Having said this, he bid me make what haste I could Home; for, said he, to be sure your poor Lady thinks every Moment you are absent from her an Age, having no Body to communicate her Thoughts to besides yourself. When I had heard her out, I blamed my

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self for having so rashly accused her; and was the more angry, when I recollected how assiduous she had been to serve me from the first beginning of the Amour between *Torismond* and myself; through all which time she had been in a particular manner serviceable to me; therefore after I had duly consider'd all she had said, and found that what she had acted was of pure necessity, I reply'd, Dear *Isabella*, I am sorry my Passion so far transported me, as not to let me at first hear you out; for then I had not only done justice to you, but should have kept myself from the tormenting Fear of being expos'd to the unthinking part of the ill-natur'd World, who, I am very sensible, had they but once got a Story by the End, would have put their own ill-natur'd Constructions on my Love to *Torismond*; and tho' I know my own Thoughts to have bore no ill Design, yet I tell thee, *Isabella*, there is less Danger in meeting a Lioness bereav'd of her Young, than in committing one's self to the partial Censure of the World; tho' now I have heard from you what the Doctor hath said, I am perfectly easy, but can't for my life tell how I shall behave myself at his next Visit; for if he should but name *Torismond* to me, I shall die with Shame and

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CALISTA *and* TORISMOND. 27

Confusion. After she had heard me out, with a deep sigh, she said, Ah, Madam! I too well guess the Uneasiness you feel; and if it may not seem too presumptuous an Expression from me, do assure you I heartily sympathize with you in all your Sufferings, since I am no Stranger to Love, and all its most tyrannick Turns of Fortune; for had I not been a Slave to that little blind God, I had not had the Honour at this time of being your Ladyship's humble Servant.

This Discourse of her's was no small Surprize to me, tho' it answer'd the Opinion I had always entertain'd of her, which was, that she was well descended: This made me the more inquisitive about her; I therefore said, *Isabella*, as I have intrusted you with the greatest Secrets of my Life, and you have assur'd me, it is your Inclination to oblige me in all I desire; I would not have you longer conceal from me your Family, nor the fatal Cause of your leaving your own Home; for, *Isabella*, I am well assur'd, that by not discovering to me who you are, you do not only put Hardships on yourself, but divest me of the power of doing you that Service, which perhaps I might be capable of rendring to you, were I but acquainted with your Affairs. When she

28 *The Amours of*

had somewhat recovered herself from the Concern which my Discourse had given her, she said, Madam, I should not make any scruple of recounting every Action of my Life, could I in the least believe it would be diverting to you; but as the whole Circle of it has been filled with nothing but Misfortunes, I fear it will only contribute to your Melancholy. I desired her not to make any farther Excuses, but (as we were like to be alone till the Doctor came) to oblige me in my Request, which, without more ado, she related in the following manner.



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The AMOURS of

ISABELLA *and* POLYDOR.

SINCE, Madam, it is your Request to know, what I design'd should for ever have been a Secret to all the World; to oblige your Ladyship I shall wave all my former Resolutions, and with the utmost Candor make you acquainted with each Circumstance that has befallen me: My Father was a Gentleman of the Long-Robe, and by his Practice had gain'd a very plentiful Estate, which made him resolve to quit the Town, and enjoy what he had acquir'd, with his Family, the remaining part of his Life; in order so to do, he put an end to all Business, and with my Mother, Brother and myself, (which were all his Family besides Servants) retired to a Seat he had purchased in *Norfolk*, where we had not been very long before my Mother died, from which Time I may date the Commencement of my Misfortunes; for my Father become so fond of me, that he was never easy when I was out of his Sight, which made him take me where
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ever he went. One Day (which has ever since been fatal to my Quiet) he was invited by Sir C. H. to Dinner, and, according to his usual Fondness, took me along with him; this Baronet had a Son, whom I had often seen, but with the same indifference as I had other young Gentlemen; nor was my innocent Heart then any ways in the least inclinable to Love that I know of. We spent the Day in all the Merriment that could be thought of, and the young Spark in a particular manner courted and complimented me; at Night my Father and myself returned Home, where after Supper he went to Bed, and I retired to my Chamber. What ever I could do, I could not get this young Spark out of my Thoughts, and the more I strove to suppress them, he still appear'd to me with fresh Beauties; at length I went to Bed, but could not rest, but tumbled and tossed till Day-Break, when I arose. I had not been up a quarter of an Hour, but looking from my Window I saw in the Road a Man walking backwards and forwards, leading a Horse by the Bridle; as soon as ever I spy'd him, I knew him to be one of the Servants I had seen at Sir Charles's the Day before, therefore concluded he waited to speak with my Father; but looking up, he quickly perceiv'd me, and beg'd I would be pleas-
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sed to come down to the Gate, giving me to understand that his Business was with me. I was surprized at first, but however resolved to go down and enquire what he had to say to me; when I came to him, he, with a great deal of Respect, gave me a Letter, which he desir'd me forthwith to read and return him an Answer. I told him I believed he was still mistaken, for doubtless that was for my Father; but he assuring me it was not, I looked on the other side, and found it directed to me, therefore opening it, I cast an Eye at the Bottom, and found it signed *Polydcr*. This at first put me to some stand, but on perusing it, I found it was from the Person who had occasion'd my last Night's Disorder: It was filled with all the Expressions of Love imaginable, and a thousand times over he humbly intreated me to favour him with an Answer, and give him an Opportunity of declaring the extream Passion he had for me; for if I would not pity him, his Life would be a perpetual Torment. I can't but own this Declaration of his was very pleasing to me, yet however I resolv'd not to afford him the least Encouragement for such a Favour, therefore dismissed the Servant without any other Answer, than that I would make my Father acquainted with his Errant. The Fellow, who was let in-

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to the Secret, seem'd surpriz'd at what I said, and was going to make me some Reply; which I perceiving, turned short and shut the Gate: Then with what Speed I could I hastened to my Chamber, where I read over the Letter a thousand times; and (as I imagined) ever since discovered something new and wonderfully pretty in it. I called to mind his Carriage to me the Day before; and every thing seeming to sooth me in my Love for *Polydor*, I gave way to no other Thoughts, and began to chide my self heartily for having sent him such a Message, which, as I believed by my self, could not but put him into great Vexation and Torment. I had not long remained in my Room, before I received a Message from my Father (who by this time was stirring) that I should come to him into his Apartment. For my part, I was in so great a Consternation upon the hearing this Command, that I could not for some time recover myself; for I made no doubt but my Father had seen *Polydor's* Man, his Chamber looking into the Road as well as mine: But at length coming a little to myself, I ordered the Servant to tell him I would immediately wait on him, tho' at the same time I was dying for Fear; nor would the Concern I was in give me an Opportunity

nity to recollect myself enough for one excuse had there been any occasion, however I went to him, where he receiv'd me as usual. After some talk, *Isabella*, said he, what I sent to you for, is, to let you know, that to Morrow I must go to *London*, therefore would have you order all things fit for my Journey; and pray in my absence take care of yourself, nor let my being from Home give a Licence to young *Lycippus* to come and visit you: (he being One that my Father was afraid had a Design upon me, but indeed I did not care for him) I therefore said, Sir, I am sorry any Action I have been ever guilty of should make you suspect my Conduct; but as for *Lycippus*, I assure you Sir you have no reason to fear, since I can safely affirm to you, that he is the last Man breathing I should make choice of; nor do I desire to fix on any one, before you shall tell me it is with your Approbation; he seem'd well pleas'd at my Answer, and took his leave of me for that time, being obliged to see Sir *Charles*, who was to go to Town with him the next Day. As soon as he came into the Baronet's House, *Polydor* came to ours, and having ask'd for me, was conducted into the Parlour, where I was playing on the Spinnet. I was so confounded at his first approach, that for some Minutes I

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had not presence of Mind enough to ask him to sit down ; but at length calling together my scatter'd Senses, I said to him, Sir, my Father is gone from Home, nor do I expect his return very suddenly ; to this he replied, Madam, I am no Stranger to your Father's being abroad, since I left him with mine ; nor is my Business to him any more than the Letter I sent this Morning : No, divine *Isabella*, what I have to say, is to yourself, and I hope will not be disobliging, when I come to offer you a Heart, that till it was conquer'd by your irresistible Charms, ne'er knew what it was to feel a Moment's Pain ; therefore, as you have the offer of it in its first Purity, I beg you'll not by your Frowns undo a Man, whom it is in your Power, and yours alone, to make the most happy of Mortals. Thus did he for some Time run on, without so much as giving me an opportunity of replying ; but catching hold of my Hand and kissing it, he said, as my Life wholly depends on your Answer, and I am confident that heavenly Form must inclose a Mind adorn'd with all Sweetness and Affability ; so I hope you will not put a constraint on your Native Goodness, but pity the Wretch you have made. After he had said a great many such soft Things to me, he stop'd, and in a profound Silence waited

waited my Answer, which I not immediately giving, he rose from his Chair, and threw himself at my Feet, protesting he would remain in that Posture till I gave him some hopes that his Pain might be reliev'd. This Action adding to the many Expressions of Love he had before so warmly repeated, made me begin to turn my Eyes on him in a more favourable Manner than I had hitherto done; but the Fear I was in lest any of our Servants should come up and find him in that Posture, made me somewhat earnest with him to rise; I told him if I could do any thing consistent with my Honour, that would restore him that Quiet, the loss of which he so much complain'd of, he might be sure of my Assistance. When he had re-seated himself, he again took my Hand, and pressing it, said, I hope my charming Angel does not believe, that to enjoy the greatest Blessing upon Earth, I would ask her to do any thing to blast that Honour which I would preserve with the loss of my Life; no, dear *Isabella*, my Desires are perfectly Chaste, nor have I ever harbour'd so prophane a Thought, as to sully that heavenly Innocence with which you are possess'd, with unlawful Love. Therefore, as my Design is nothing but strictly honourable, and my Fortune not inferior to yours, there remains nothing for you to

object against but my Person; and since I know you to be Mistress of that good Sense, as not to place your whole Satisfaction on the Momentary Charms of a handsome Face, I beseech you at least to give me some hopes that I may have a small quiet in my Breast, which I have not this long while enjoyed; for tho' before this time I durst not declare my Passion to you, yet believe me, divine *Isabella*, I have long been your Slave. Now, tho' he made this Apology for his Person, yet I assure you he had no occasion to do it; for he was a perfectly handsome Man; I assur'd him that I never entertained any young Gentleman in the way of a Lover, yet I had often heard, that it was their common Practice to talk after this Manner to every Woman who would be foolish enough to encourage them so far as to give Ear to them: But for my Part, it was my Resolution (as I had hitherto enjoyed the most agreeable Tranquility of Mind) not to throw away my Freedom, and become the Jest of any Man. Whilst I was talking, he fix'd his Eyes full on mine, which I kept cast down, for fear they should discover the disagreement between my Tongue and my Heart; which is too sure they did not: For what he had said, (together with his Actions) had blown up that Fire, which
before

before was but just kindled, and fearing by some unguarded Word or Carriage, he might perceive the Respect I had for him; I desir'd he would be going, and told him, that should my Father come in, and find him with me, it might cause a great many Uneasinesses, which it would be much better for us both to prevent: He replied, he would not for the World do any thing that should procure me a Moment's Pain, but with all, beg'd of me not to send him away, without letting him at least know, that what he had said was not wholly disagreeable to me, earnestly intreating that he might visit me during the Absence of our Parents. At last, finding I could not get decently rid of him, without saying something to his Request, with a great deal of indifference, I told him he might in my Father's absence divert himself by walking in our Gardens, when nothing occur'd that would more pleasantly entertain him; he was going to reply, but was hinder'd by one of our Servants entering the Room to acquaint me, that he saw my Father coming down the Hill, which was but a little way from our House; I therefore earnestly desir'd him to go out at the Back-door of the Garden to prevent being discover'd. He was no sooner gone, but in came my Father, and
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after having given me an Account of all that had happen'd to him, he began to enquire how I had diverted myself in his absence? I told him in ordering Things for his Journey; so we pass'd that Evening in common Chat, and the next Morning Sir Charles and he set forward for *London*. They were not gone many Hours, before I receiv'd a Billet from *Polydor*, wherein he fail'd not to press his Suit in the most moving Manner that Love could Dictate; Yet I return'd him no Answer to it, as indeed not knowing well what to say for myself; for in short, he grew every Moment dearer and dearer to me.

The Messenger was no sooner return'd, and *Polydor* finding he had no Letter, immediately dress'd and came to visit me, and as One almost distracted, cried, ah, my charming Angel! How could you be so cruel not to send me one Line? In short, he stay'd all Day with me, and fail'd not of renewing his Visit as early as he thought I was stirring the next Morning. Thus, did we pass our Time in the absence of our Parents, and at length we became so Intimate as to own our Loves to be mutual: All the difficulty that now remain'd, was to get their Consent, nor had I much occasion to fear my Father's,

ther's, the Fortune of *Polydor* being so far superior to mine, whilst he on the other Hand hop'd Sir *Charles* would see with his Eyes, or if he should not at first yield, I am sure, says he, my Father rather than see me miserable, will give his Consent; but he was mistaken! and his fatal Resolution has I much fear made us both miserable as long as we live! Here *Isabella* let fall a Shower of Tears, which she could not suppress, but at length recovering herself, she thus resum'd her Story: We had in this Manner made ourselves as happy as we could by mutual Promises and an assured Fidelity to each other; but, whilst we thought ourselves safe in the security of each other's Affections, and waited for nothing but the return of our Parents, to give their Consent to crown our Happiness; we consulted next, who should first break this important Secret: Believing it not to be in the Power of any Person to reveal that Passion which we had both been so careful to conceal. But as careful as we were, *Lycippus*, whom I before told you of, having been divers Times to visit me, and as often as he came had met with a Repulse; for seeing *Polydor* pass frequently by his House, which he was oblig'd to do in coming to me; Jealousy overtaking him, he resolv'd one Evening by Moon light to dog him,
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and finding an Opportunity, accordingly did so, and as he was going Home pick'd a Quarrel with him; *Polydor* not knowing of any Pretensions that *Lycippus* had made to me, was at first much surpriz'd at the scurrilous Language he gave him, saying, Sir, I believe you mistake me for some other Person who has injur'd you, which to my Knowledge I never did; *Lycippus* reply'd, no *Polydor*, it is no mistake in me, for it is you that have injured me, and of you I require Satisfaction. Upon which without staying for any Answer, he drew, and stab'd *Polydor* in the Breast, before he cou'd be on his Guard. After *Lycippus* found, that he had wounded him, he very generously offer'd him his assistance Home, which *Polydor* gladly accepted of, not being willing for my Sake to have this Misfortune talk'd on publickly. As they were going along, *Polydor* said, tho' I am this Moment absolutely a Stranger to the Occasion of your present Quarrel with me, yet believe me *Lycippus*, I shou'd be ready to give you that Satisfaction you so warmly demand, did I really know I had given you any just Reason for it: But as I can no ways tax myself with Breach of Friendship since my Acquaintance with you, I am mightily at a loss to imagine from whence this Resentment should proceed. To
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which *Lycippus* reply'd, you have injured me in the most sensible Part, which is, my Love to *Isabella*; and believe me, nothing but that could have worked me up to the Passion I have, with so little Consideration, acted this Night, and for which I now heartily ask your Pardon, and beg you not to discompose yourself any farther at this time, but take care of your Health, that we may hereafter, when you are well, fairly dispute who has the best Right or Title to that false Fair One.

By that time *Lycippus* had ended this Discourse, they arrived at *Polydor's* Gate, where they in a friendly manner took leave of each other till *Polydor's* Recovery, who was a hundred times more rack'd by what the other had said, than by the Wound he had given him, though it was not small: And no doubt, had not the Trouble of his Mind been unspeakable to him, he would not so easily have pass'd by the Pain which he must of Necessity be then under. And for my part, I suffered the greatest Inquietude imaginable, after having waited all the next Day without either seeing, or receiving one Line from my dearest *Polydor*. Nor could I tell what to do, or think what should be the Cause of this Neglect; but

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resolved rather to die than discover my Love to any one.

I now felt what I had hitherto been an absolute Stranger to; I mean the Torment, which the Disappointment of conversing with the Man I most loved, gave me. I had no Body to whom I durst impart the Anxiety of my Mind, which made it still the greater. And in this Perplexity I continued for five Days; so that my continual fretting, and want of Sleep, threw me into such a violent Fever, that every one despair'd of my Life. This Indisposition of mine occasion'd a mighty Disturbance in our Family; and the Fear of my Death, in the Absence of my Father, made the Servants be perpetually talking of it in the Neighbourhood; so that it soon came to *Polydor's* Ears, who was himself at the same time extremely ill of his Wound. When first he heard of it, it so overwhelm'd him, that he resolv'd, (tho' at the hazard of his own Life) to come and see me; therefore presently order'd his Man, who he had all along entrusted with bringing his Letters to me, to get their Horses ready, and attend him to our House. His Valet dissuaded him all he could from attempting to go abroad; telling him he could
not

not do it without putting his Life to the utmost Danger.

But finding whatsoever he said was to no purpose, he made ready to accompany him : In short, they were no sooner arriv'd at our House, but *Polydor* inquiring for me, perceived by their Countenances that the News he had heard of my Illness was too true ; for the Servants told him I could see no Company, being so weak that I was confin'd to my Bed. To this he reply'd, that he must needs see me on very earnest Business; for he had received a Letter from *London*, the Contents of which he must impart to me, and me only. His being so pressing made the Servants he spoke to, acquaint the Servant that attended me, with what he said, who immediately came and told me ; and desir'd to know if he might have Admittance into my Chamber. His Name at first put me into great Disorder ; but recollecting my scattered Thoughts, I told her, since his Occasions were so urgent she might conduct him to me.

When I first cast my Eyes upon him, I was strangely surprized at his looking so very pale ; and he seemed no less concerned at my Illness : But I immediately perceiv'd

his Carriage not to be so free as usual; and instead of that tender way he was us'd to express himself, I found nothing but a slight Respect. I was resolved to know the Occasion of this Alteration, therefore found a way to send my Maid out of the Room. As soon as he saw we were alone, he thus began: I shall not at this time, *Isabella*, upbraid you with a Fault I could not have believed you to be ever guilty of; nor would I have you believe that the Wound I have received is what I regret: No, false *Isabella*, it is your ungenerous Carriage which I resent; nor could I imagine that so great a Deceit was able to lodge within that heavenly Form. Thus did he for some time run on, without once giving me leave so much as to ask what he meant. At length, he making a little Pause, I said, *Polydor*, I don't understand what you aim at, unless it be by upbraiding me with a Fault of which I am perfectly innocent, to excuse your self of the Breach of those Vows you have so often repeated. But I would not have you, in this unhandsome Manner, by thus reproaching me, labour to free yourself from your former Engagements; for I'll assure you I am very ready to absolve you of all the Promises you have made me, and hope Heaven will as easily pass them by.

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When I had done speaking, he said, Madam, it is You that have need to ask Heaven's Pardon; and to convince you, that what I have said is not as you are pleas'd to term it, any Falshood in me, look here, and let this Wound bear witness, Who it was that occasion'd it, for This I receiv'd from your Lover *Lycippus*: On my looking at his Breast, I really saw he was wounded, and at the sight thereof swoon'd away, which he perceiving, run to me, and taking me in his Arms, gave me all the Assistance he was capable of; when I came to myself, he ask'd my Pardon, for the Folly he had been guilty of; and then told me all that had passed between *Lycippus* and himself, at his last Visit; and assur'd me, that it was his Illness alone, and not want of Respect, that had kept him thus long from me. When he had convinc'd me of this, *Polydor*, said I, I am sorry you shou'd suffer this Pain for me, but do give you my Word, that *Lycippus* is the last Person you shall have need to fear as a Rival; and if you have that true value for me you profess, I beseech you, that you'd no farther entertain a Thought of him, in that respect, nor hazard a Life, which I own very dear to me, in trifling with that Fool, who is my utter Aversion. After I
had

had given him this Satisfaction, *Polydor* seem'd much pleas'd, and the Evening growing cold, I intreated him now to go home, and take a particular care of his Health, wherein I was so much concern'd; thus with repeating our former Promises to each other, we parted for that Night.

The next Day Sir *Charles* return'd from *London*, and with him my Father, who was mightily troubled to see me in this weak Condition; the following Day Sir *Charles* came to dine at our House, and with him *Polydor*, the Sight of whom, I confess, contributed greatly to my Recovery; and I was so brisk, that, in the heat of the Day, I propos'd to take a turn in the Garden, to which they all agreed, but especially *Polydor*, who accompanied me thither. After some little Discourse, we came to a Resolution of discovering our Loves to our Fathers; tho' indeed he said, for fear lest they should not at first comply with our Requests, let me beg of you, that you wou'd deliver me from the tormenting Dread of the Loss of you; and as you've already given me cause to believe I have some Share in your Heart, refuse me not, my dearest *Isabella*, the joining of your Hand, and venture, with me, the Reconcilement of our Parents; for the worst
they

they can do, is but to put us out of their Favour, which, for my part, I shall look upon as a Trifle, so I may be blest in the Enjoyment of my Dearest; since there can be no Station of Life I shall not esteem happy in your Embraces: And besides, should we ask their Consent, and they deny us, their Resentments may not, perhaps, terminate here; but they may find some way to separate us for ever. When he had done, I told him, in my Opinion, he only tormented himself with needless Fears, but, however, I wou'd not do any thing without their mutual Consent; for, said I, *Polydor*, I am very unwilling that your fond Love should lead us to both our Destructions. For O! how soon would that Passion for me decay, which is now so violent, when you see yourself lost in your Father's Favour, upon my account? He replied, ah, *Isabella*, how unjustly do you tax me with what I am sure it is impossible I should ever be guilty of? Our long stay in the Garden, made my Father fear I might take cold, wherefore he order'd a Servant to let me know it was his Desire that we should return to the House, which put an end to all our farther Talk at that time. At our coming in, the old Gentlemen, inquiring what Chat we could find to keep us so long out, we told him, we had

had been admiring the handy Works of Nature, and the Delicacy of the several Walks we had gone through. After they had finished their Business, Sir Charles took his leave of my Father, I mine of *Polydor*, never to meet again ; and from that fatal Hour my Eyes have not been bless'd with the sight of that dear Man. For as Sir Charles and his Son were going home, they were met by *Lycippus*, who had vow'd Revenge on *Polydor*, for the Affection which he fancied I bore him ; and he believed, that could he make *Polydor*'s Passion for me but known to his Father, there would be nothing left undone by the Baronet, to prevent the Match. *Lycippus* therefore thought the only method he could take to discover this to Sir Charles, was to step up to *Polydor*, now he was with him, and appoint a time wherein they might decide their Pretensions to me. *Polydor* was in a great Surprize at *Lycippus*'s Carriage ; and his Father being in Company, he would fain have put him off till another time ; but the more desirous he perceived him to be to evade it, the more eager he was to press it : At length Sir Charles seeing his Son very uneasy, enquired into the Cause that made him so, but receiv'd an Answer foreign to his Question ; at which *Lycippus*, with his usual Assurance, said,
since

since you seem so earnest to know what we have been talking of, I will tell you, Sir, your Son has wrong'd me, and, as we are both Gentlemen, I think there is no way for us to do Justice to each other, but with our Swords to determine our Right. This Speech of *Lycippus*'s so surpriz'd Sir *Charles*, that for a few Moments it depriv'd him of his Reason: But, coming a little to himself; *Lycippus*, said he, what you have told me, gives me such a sudden Shock, that I am at an absolute loss what Answer to make you for the present; therefore would at this time desire you to lay aside your Resentment, and to accompany me Home, where I'll endeavour to reconcile you both; or do engage, that if *Polydor* has injur'd you, he shall strait give you any reasonable Satisfaction you can demand; for I believe I may take it upon me to say, that there is some Mistake between you, and that my Son wou'd not designedly do any thing which was not consistent with the nicest Justice. By that time Sir *Charles* had ended his Discourse, they all three got to the House; as soon as they came in, *Polydor* retir'd to his Chamber, and left his Father, who, in a courteous manner, invited *Lycippus* to walk in; and after bidding him welcome, he desir'd him to declare the real Occasion of his Quarrel with

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Polydor;

Polydor; whereupon, without any Reserve, he return'd him this Answer; I have long bore a very great Respect for the Daughter of Mr. C——, the beauteous *Isabella*, nor has my Suit been deny'd till lately; and I find that your Son's making Pretensions there, is the occasion of my being repuls'd; but tho' I cannot presume to say I have a Fortune equal to his, yet I am sure my Love is as true; therefore he must resolve, either to quit all farther Applications to her, or our Swords must decide the Point.

When he had thus openly given Sir *Charles* an Account of what he so much resented, the Baronet promis'd him that he need no longer stand in fear of being interrupted in his Love to *Isabella*; for, said he, I believe my Son will so far submit to my Advice, as not to do any thing without my full Consent: And that he mayn't think I will go about to make him uneasy, after I have spoke to him of this Affair, and heard what he says, if he resolutely still persists in his Love to her (to which I am as yet an utter Stranger) I will not any way dissuade or oppose him; but in a Day or two, at farthest, will contrive to send him up to *London*, to a Brother I have there, and hope that Absence, and the Diversions he will meet with, will quite erase from his

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Memory the Thoughts of *Isabella*. For tho' I have a great Respect for her Father, yet, believe me, Sir, I will never give my Consent to this Match; and, in the mean time, I will take care to have him always in my Sight; and, by that means, prevent him from either seeing or sending to her, so long as he stays in the Country. Therefore, good *Lycippus*, do not in the least fear he shall do you any farther Injury in your Love, now you have made it known to me, and I shall ever hold myself oblig'd to you for the Discovery. Upon this they took their Leaves of one another; whilst poor *Polydor*, who had over-heard all their Discourse, was almost dying with the distracting Thoughts it had put him into.

After *Lycippus* was gone, Sir *Charles* sent for his Son to come to him; who, as soon as he receiv'd the Message, told the Servant he wou'd immediately wait on him. When he enter'd the Room, Sir *Charles*, without taking any Notice of what had pass'd between *Lycippus* and him, said, Son, there is a Business that nearly concerns both myself and your Welfare, which I neglected when I was lately at *London*; therefore I must have you go thither to morrow. This Speech of his Father almost depriv'd him of his Senses; but, at length, he desir'd

his Permission to defer his Journey for a Day or two, because he was then somewhat indispos'd: But Sir Charles persisting in it, *Polydor* told him it was impossible for him so soon to comply with his Commands. This Answer of his enrag'd the old Baronet to that degree, that it made him break the Resolution he had before taken, of not telling him what he had heard of his Love to me; and therefore, in a violent Passion, he said, think not, *Polydor*, that how close soever you have carried your Love to *Isabella*, it is any longer a Secret to me; know (ungrateful as you are) that notwithstanding your Endeavours to conceal your Intrigue, I am well acquainted with all your Designs; and do therefore, with the Authority of a Father, strictly command you not to think any more of her, but without any farther dispute prepare to begin your Journey to morrow in the Afternoon, for you shall stay no longer here. Having said this, he quitted the Room without giving *Polydor* time to make any Reply. So that he remain'd in the greatest Perplexity imaginable all the Night; nor could he get one wink of Sleep: But when all the Family was at rest, he writ me a Letter, wherein he acquainted me with all that had happen'd to him since we parted, just as I have related it to you,

you, with an Account of his being forced to leave the Country that Day.

In the Morning by Day-break he called his Man, and charg'd him that he would carry that Letter to me, and, if possible, to bring him an Answer to it. The Fellow, with all Expedition, came to our House, and saw me looking out of the same Window as he had done before; for whether by Sympathy, or what other Reason, I cannot tell, but I had not once laid my Eyes together the whole Night. As soon as he saw me he shewed me the Billet, which was a Signal sufficient to make me go down Stairs. When I came to the Gate he presented me with the Letter, and told me his Master earnestly beg'd to have an Answer to it. I was much surprized at his sending to me so early, fearing some ill Consequence, and therefore bid the Man wait, and if it requir'd any Return he should have it.

After I had once read it, and found the fatal Resolution of his Father, it put me into so great a Consternation as is impossible for me to describe, and which is scarce to be conceiv'd by any one. However, at length, he so pressing me for an Answer, I recollected my self, and wrote him one. To repeat the Particulars of it would be
to

to no purpose, since it was only to let him know, that I was sorry his Affection for me should be the Occasion of his Departure, and beg'd of him to lay aside all Thoughts of me, rather than on my Account to leave the Country. I assur'd him that *Lycippus* should not reap the Benefit of his Treachery; For since the cruel Destinies deny'd that we should meet, according to our Wishes, it was my final Resolution never to entertain any other Person as a Lover; and this be assured of from me.

When I had finished my Letter, and was going to carry it to *Polydor's* Servant, I heard some of our Family stirring, therefore durst not go down to give it him, but was forc'd to stand at my Chamber Window, and make Signs for him to come as near the Wall as he could, (for I could not speak for fear of being over-heard.) When he was got close to the Wall, I was at a fresh Loss for some time how to convey it to him; for I was afraid that should I throw it, it would fall into the Court-yard, and not go over the Wall. In this Perplexity I remain'd a good while, not knowing what to do: At length this lucky Thought came into my Head, that I would take a Handkerchief, and tie the Letter, together with a Ring I wore, which *Polydor* had often
desir'd

desir'd me to give him ; (it was a Ruby in the shape of a Heart :) This Thought I immediately put in Execution, and they both went safely over the Wall, unseen by any one but *Polydor's* Servant, who took it up.

I looked after him as far as I could, and when he was out of Sight, I began afresh to consider the Letter. After I had in a serious manner perused it, I gave way to all the Extremes of a violent Passion ; but reflecting that whatever I could say or do would be then to no purpose ; and not doubting but the hated *Lysippus* would lose no time, but as soon as ever he heard of *Polydor's* Departure, would renew his Addresses to me ; though I was resolved to suffer all the Torments in the World before I would give any Countenance to them. Nor did his additional Estate, which was lately fallen to him, make him appear in the least more amiable to me, though at the same time I much fear'd it would be a very prevailing Argument with my Father.

Thus tormented as I was in my Mind, I could not immediately tell what to do : At first I thought to leave my Father's House, and to follow *Polydor* ; but again, recollecting

recollecting with my self, I chid my own Folly in this manner, saying, simple *Isabella*; what! would you, without any Invitation, go after a Man? Have not you often seen, that when they have courted a Woman Years together, and gained their vile Ends, they have basely left them, and triumph'd over the Conquests they have made? Having in this manner chid my self, I resolv'd to be content as well as I could till I should again hear from *Polydor*, which I hoped would not be long first; and therefore to avoid all Impertinence, I immediately went to Bed, with a Design to feign my self sick, hoping by that means to shun the Company of any that should come to visit me.

The same Afternoon, *Polydor*, according to his Letter, set forward for *London*, accompanied by his Father, who took care to see him the first Day's Journey, for fear he should make it in his way to call at our House. When he had seen him twenty or thirty Miles on his way, and stay'd with him at his Inn all that Night, the next Morning he returned Home, and *Polydor* went forward towards *London*. As Sir *Charles* was going back he called at my Father's, and found him in great Disorder at my Illness. After some Talk between them, Sir *Charles* told him of his Son's being

ing gone to *London*, he seem'd concerned that he had not taken his leave of him before he went; when the Baronet was gone, he came to my Chamber to pay me a Visit, and with great uneasiness told me of *Polydor's* departure, and said Sir *Charles* carried himself very strangely towards him; the meaning of which he could by no means understand. The Name of *Polydor* put me into so strange a Confusion, that I was afraid my Father wou'd have perceived it; therefore to avoid any Discovery of that Nature: I pretended an Inclination to Sleep, which he perceiving, immediately withdrew from my Chamber; and by that means I had full Liberty for Thought. In this unsettled condition I remained for some Days; but one Morning, as I lay in my Bed, I fancied I heard somebody whistle, and Cough, as if with a design to be in a particular Manner understood; therefore strait leaping out of Bed and opening my Window, I immediately saw *Polydor's* Servant, he no sooner perceived me, but he shewed me a Letter; I made no farther delay but presently went down and having taken it, I promised him an answer: Therefore with all Expedition I returned to my Chamber where I opened it and found it full of fresh Pro-

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fessions

feſſions of the moſt inviolable Love, and
 withal bitter Complaints at this Cruel Sepa-
 ration, and begging me forthwith to come to
 him ; which if I would conſent to, his Ser-
 vant ſhould Conduct me to our happy Meet-
 ing. I muſt own my Inclinations were very
 ſtrong to ſee him ; but conſidering that
 Men were apt to ſlight what with too great
 Eaſe they came by ; I reſolved to have a-
 nother Letter from him before I made that
 Adventure. Therefore wrote him word,
 that if he did not think it worth his while
 to riſk the hazard of coming himſelf to
 fetch me ; I could not believe it fit for me
 to come to him : With this Answer I diſ-
 patch'd the Meſſenger, and ſuppoſing that
 it would not be long before my Lover
 would releaſe me, I reſolved to throw off
 my Illneſs and appear in the Family again.
 My ſudden Recovery from my late Indif-
 poſition was ſoon ſpread abroad, which
 gave opportunity to *Lycippus*, who had
 from his new acquired Fortune, gained a
 conſiderable Inter-eſt with my Father, and
 his Conſent to repeat his Addreſſes to me :
 So that I was not only plagued by the ab-
 ſence of my beloved *Polydor* ; but daily
 Tormented with the hateful Viſits of *Ly-
 cippus*. In this vexation did I paſs ſome
 time, ſtill wondering that I did not again
 hear

hear from *Polydor*; but my desire of seeing him, put him upon that which has proved fatal to us both; for his eagerness to come to me as my Letter intimated, made him set forward from *London* as soon as ever he could, and thinking to have arrived at the same place where I used to speak to his Man, he was unluckily met by his Father; who happened that Morning to be Riding to a Neighbour of his, in order to a Hunting-Match. As soon as ever he saw his Son, he immediately suspected he was coming to me, but without taking any notice to him of it, (tho' he was surprized) he told him he was very glad to see him, and since he so luckily had met him, he should go along with him; but instead of going where he at first designed, he carried the unhappy *Polydor* to a Sea-port where lay a small Vessel; the Master of which was Sir *Charles's* particular Friend. They went on board under a pretence to pay him a Visit, but after drinking pretty plentifully together, he gave him a strict Charge of *Polydor*, and said, he would take care to send him all things proper for his Voyage, but by all means he desir'd the Captain not to let him come on Shore. Thus did he most barbarously betray his Son to be carried out of the Land.

Polydor who had drank to an Excess, Slept very heartily that night ; but the next Day when he rose, and offered to go away, he found himself detained, and was forc'd to go along with him. This stirr'd up all the Passion which you know, is natural to believe, must arise in the Breast of any one that hath met with such a surprizing Misfortune. At length, perceiving all his Anger would be to no purpose, he resolv'd to try if it were possible to corrupt one of the Sea-men by a good Bribe, to suffer him in the Night to make his Escape : But the Captain being apprehensive of his taking some such Course, would needs have him lie with him, and in the day time took particular care he should be constantly in his Eye ; so that he was forced to write this Account to me at several Times, and got it convey'd (by a Sailor who had deserted from the Ship) to the place in *London*, where he had directed me to come. My not hearing from *Polydor* all this while put me quite out of patience, and matters being now come to an absolute Agreement between *Lycippus* and my Father, there was a day appointed for our Marriage. I could not tell what in the world to do, but at last determin'd the next day, as soon as ever it was light, to leave my Fathers House:

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House: I therefore spent all that night in contriving some way how to disguise myself that I might get clear off; and as Providence put it into my Head, I happened to step into my Brother's Closet where I found several Suits of Cloaths which he had not taken along with him, he having been for sometime gone to the Academy in *Holland*; therefore I made bold with one of them, and knowing where he used to put his Linnen, I went and found every thing I wanted fit to equip me for my designed Journey: So that I had then nothing left to do, but to pack up what Money and Jewels I had. I waited with all the impatience imaginable till break of day, and then I began my Tour on Foot, for I durst not venture in any of the Stage-Coaches for fear of being Discovered. But I had not Travelled above four Miles, or thereabouts, before I was so tired as not to be able to go any farther, and must certainly have stayed there, had not good Fortune befriended me and sent some empty Coaches that were returning from a Funeral, where they had attended some Person into those parts of the County: I called to one of them, and inquired if I could not have a Passage to *London* in it, the Man very gladly took me up, and so I finished my Journey

Journey with a great deal of Ease. As soon as ever I got to Town, I went to the place where I expected to see *Polydor*, but instead of being blessed with that satisfaction, was told that he was forced away from *England* two Days before; I examined strictly how they came by this Knowledge, to which the Gentlewomen replied, she had it from one of the Sea-men who left the Ship under Sail, and had brought a Letter to her House to be left for Mrs. *Isabella*.---When I heard my own name mentioned, I could no longer hide my concern, but fell into a Swoon, which the Gentlewomen perceiving, did all she could to bring me to my self, and by some Accident or other, discovered I was not of that Sex, which my Dress represented me to be. As soon as I came a little to my Senses, she changed her Discourse with me, and begged I would no longer conceal the Occasion of my appearing in this Garb, promising me all the assistance that lay in her Power; finding my self in this desperate Condition, and being impatient to see *Polydor's* Letter, I made no scruple of discovering to her who I was, and my whole Circumstance just as I have related it to your Ladyship: She immediately gave me the Letter which was filled with repeated

Protesta-

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Protestations of the continuance of his Affection to me; notwithstanding the Barbarous Treachery of his Father to separate him from me: After I had read it and shed a Torrent of Tears, *Cleanthe*, for that was the name of the Gentlewoman, did all she could to Comfort me, and presently lent me some of her own Cloaths, that so I might change my Garb before her Husband saw me; for you know (said she) Men are apt enough at all Times to be Censorious without any occasion, therefore we will not do any thing to give him cause; nor shall he see you before I have talked the Matter over to him, for which end, pray retire a little into this Apartment, till I have prepared him. Thus in the midst of my Misfortunes, Providence sent *Cleanthe* who proved a faithful Friend to me. When her Spouse came home she acquainted him with my Story, at which he seem'd surpris'd, and was very desirous to see me, and promised to joyn with her in doing me all the service he was capable of. When she had thus far gain'd her point, she brought him into my Chamber, where they found me all in Tears: After the first Compléments were over, he desired I would be comforted, saying, Madam, assure your self that nothing

thing I can any ways serve you in shall be wanting, and to confirm you that my Professions are sincere, I will to morrow take a Journey to the Place from whence we heard *Polydor* Sailed, that so if he be not too far gone, and that there is a possibility of bringing him back, nothing shall be neglected to effect it; but if I should chance to come too late to accomplish this Design, you shall if you please remain with us till *Polydor's* return, and believe me, that for the respect I bear to him, you shall be as welcome to us as our own Child, unless you will return to your Father, and should I (as I said before) miss of *Polydor*; I will, as I come toward *London*, call on his Father with whom I am intimately acquainted, and by that means I shall learn some news of him, as well as what the Country says of your absence. I approved of his advice and with many acknowledgments of the favours they had already shewn me, and especially this he had promised to do for me, we took our leaves of one another for that night. I, to endeavour as well as I could to rest my self after the fatigue of my Journey, and he to prepare for his, which he began the next Morning early: In his absence *Cleanthe* strove all she could to divert me, but to
no

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no purpose ; for I wholly gave my self up to Melancholy and Perplexing Thoughts ; one while on *Polydor*, and then on my Father, who I fear'd would be almost Distracted, when he could not by any means hear of me. Thus did I Sorrowfully pass my hours , till to *Cleanthe's* great Joy she saw her Husband returned, but I soon read in his looks, that he had no good News which would be pleasing to me ; and upon enquiry he told me *Polydor* left the Port five days ago ; so finding he could learn nothing further of him, there he went to Sir *Charles*, who received him very kindly, and when the first Civilities were passed and they had drank a Glass of Wine, he asked Sir *Charles* where his Son was, thinking it not proper to discover to him that he knew any thing of his being gone out of the Land. The Baronet seem'd a little shocked at the question, but soon recovering himself he replied in this Manner ; as *Polydor* lodg'd at your House, when he was in *London*, I suppose you were not a Stranger to his Intentions, and hope he took his leave of you as became him, since he came down to me on purpose to obtain my Consent to quit *England*. I own I could have wished it had been in my Power to have diverted him from it by fair means, but finding

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that

that would not prevail, I was unwilling to exert my Authority to debar him from a Purpose on which I perceived he was so eagerly bent ; therefore gave my assent to that which I had much rather he would have declined. *Erastus*, who had heard by the Letter which *Polydor* directed for me to his House, that he was betrayed on board the Vessel, and forced away without his Consent, had hardly patience to hear Sir *Charles* tell him this formal Story, without Contradicting him ; but considering with himself that should he discover that what he had told him was an untruth to his Knowledge, it might do me a great Disservice, he (tho' it was with all the difficulty in the World, as he confessed to us) concealed his Resentment of the other's Treachery, and Joyned with Sir *Charles* in his pretended grief for *Polydor*'s absence. When they had done talking of him, *Erastus* being desirous to hear what he would say of me, asked Sir *Charles* how my Father did, to which he replied, he was well as to his health, but poor Gentlemen (said he) he is almost out of his Wits for the Loss of his Daughter, whom he Loved as his own Life, and I fear it is scarce in the Power of his Friends to Comfort him. On what occasion it is she has left

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left his House is not yet known; but on the very Morning she was to have been Married to one *Lycippus*, a Young Gentleman of a Considerable Fortune, she went away, and is not to be heard of since, notwithstanding all the search possible has been made for her, both by her Father and her designed Husband; and because all their Endeavours have proved in vain, *Lycippus's* grief, for the loss of her has thrown him into so violent a Fever, that his Life is dispaired of. In short, there is little talked of in these Parts of the Country, but the odness of *Isabella's* Desertion from her Father, and poor *Lycippus's* Illness. After they had chatted thus some hours, they parted for that Night, and the next Morning betimes *Erastus* took his leave of Sir *Charles*, who mightily pressed him to stay a day or two longer; but he would not accept of it, as knowing I should be under the last impatience for his Return. Thus, Madam, said he, having (as near as I could remember) told you every thing which passed between Sir *Charles* and me, I leave you to make what use you think fit of this Information, and if it prove of any service to you, believe me, *Isabella*, I shall in no ways grudge the

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trouble

trouble you think I have been at for your Repose. When *Erastus* had in this obliging manner ended the Account of his Journey, I told him I should for ever own my self indebted to him, and that the Grateful sense I had of this Favour was more then I was capable to expresse; he beseeched me not to make such large acknowledgments for what was not worth mentioning, but if it lay in his Power to do me any further service, desired me only to name it, and it shou'd be done, at the same time he begg'd I would be as free in his House as if I were at my Father's. The Mentioning of him revived those thoughts in me, which other Discourse had in some Measure put out of my Mind, and threw me into such a violent fit of weeping, that notwithstanding all the Arguments *Cleante* and her Husband could use to assuage my Grief, with fresh Repetitions of endearing kindness and Service, I could not for a good while be brought to any Reason; but at length coming a little to my self, I answered, that tho' it was no small Affliction to me to hear of the trouble that my Father was in on my Account, yet since through his overfond imprudence he had blazoned abroad my being gone away,

so

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so as to make me the Publick talk of the whole Country, I was resolved to suffer all the hardships in the World, before I would return to that place where I could expect nothing, but to receive the Insolent Affronts of the People, who through Ignorance were apt to be Censorious upon the smallest Occasions. When I had said this, *Erastus* reply'd *Isabella*, I am sorry you should have so small an Opinion of my Friendship for *Polydor*, that all I can say to you wont induce you to believe me, when I assure you, that you shall be as welcome to us as our own Child; and I am confident *Cleanthe* will be always glad of your Company; therefore pray Endeavour to moderate this Passion of yours, and live and hope for the return of your beloved *Polydor* to Compleat your happiness. Thus for sometime I continued with as much Satisfaction as was possible to be enjoyed, by a Person who was deprived of what she held most dear to her in all the World: But Fortune which took delight in laying still more weight on the Afflicted, added a very grievous one by taking away from me my dear Friend *Cleanthe*, who after a short Indisposition departed this Life, and left her Husband in such a disconsolate Condition that he could not hearken to the least Comfort,

Comfort, nor indeed was it in my Power to Administer any to him, I being myself in so much Distraction of thought as almost deprived me of all Reason, for now I saw my self wholly destitute of any further Assistance, as fearing *Erastus* would give himself so far up to his Sorrow as not to be able to relieve me in any respect: Or admitting his grief should wear off in time, yet what could I expect from him, since generally Men are much more apt to laugh at a Woman's folly, than any ways to help her in her Misfortunes. Thus did I add to my Miseries by indulging these thoughts that were already but too Afflictive to me, and between them and the grief I felt for the irreparable loss of my dear Friend *Cleante* (who had been my chiefest Comfort in these troubles) I passed many days in the most Melancholy manner, without seeing any Body, but the still disconsolate *Erastus*. As soon as all things could be got ready for the Funeral I was intreated by *Erastus*, with several more Ladies to attend the Corps of poor *Cleante*, a little way out of Town to a place where she herself desired to be Interr'd, and after we had seen her with great Decency Deposited in the Vault with her Ancestors, I retired home and found poor

Erastus

Erastus so overwhelm'd with Sorrow, that notwithstanding my own trouble was at that time inexpressible, yet I was obliged, tho' with the utmost Constraint Imaginable, to conceal it, and beg him to be Comforted; but finding that Common Arguments would no ways prevail, I undertook a task which I must own was very unfit for my Sex to do, and endeavoured to shew him that this immoderate grief was a high offence to Heaven. It was my good Fortune in a short Time to persuade him to shew himself a Man, and to overcome his Affliction: But oh whilst I was thus doing the good Office to heal the Wounds of another, my own grew worse; for when I began seriously to weigh things, a thousand fresh vexations came crowding into my Mind, which almost put me besides my self; one while I considered what an indiscreet Action I had been guilty of in leaving my Fathers House, for I Concluded I should not be much longer welcome where I was, as believing all that *Erastus* had hitherto done for me, was to oblige his Wife whom he dearly Loved; and now she was gone, all his Friendship for me would soon be at an end; or if I should continue there, and he should still desire me

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to stay with him till the return of *Polydor*; what would the World say of us both. In this Perplexity I remained some time, at length this thought came into my head, that rather than I would give Occasion to the ill-natured Censures of the World, to talk either of my self or *Erastus*, I determined (tho' I knew it would be at first a hardship upon me) to go and wait upon some Lady as her Woman this thought mightily pleased me, and I strait imagined I had by this means Surmounted all Difficulties; but to my further regret a much greater arose then I was at that time aware of; for after I had Concluded on this as the likeliest way to screen my self from the World, I could not for my Life think how I should get to be recommended to such a place as I desired, being resolved to keep my self from the sight of every Body in Town that knew either me, or my Father; and without the help of some Person that could be my Friend, it was impossible for me to succeed in this Design, thus did I Torment my self a great while to no purpose, but that Fortune which had been so long Cruel to me, at last began to cast her Auspicious Smiles upon me in this Dilemma by sending to our House, the Lady *Fidelia* who was just returned

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returned from the *Bath*: She not having heard of *Cleanthe's* Death, was come to make her a visit, but at her first entrance into the House, seeing all the Servants in deep Mourning she was strangely surpris'd, and enquiring into the Occasion, was soon informed by them that it was for the loss of their Mistress. This sad news was a great Affliction to *Fidelia*, who had been always an intire Lover of *Cleanthe*, as every one was that knew her, for she was all Charms and Goodness. After *Fidelia* had a little got over her first Passion of Grief, she asked for me, and being acquainted that I was in my Chamber from whence I seldom stirr'd, She with all that good Humour and Sweetness of Temper which was so peculiar to her came up to me; I was extreamly pleas'd to see her, but for a few Minutes we could neither of us speak to one another; at length she broke Silence and asked me how I found *Erastus* bore his Loss. I told her with all the sensible Regret and Passion imaginable. When we had for sometime discours'd of the Confusion of the Family, I told her my design of going to attend on some Lady, and begged her to assist me in it. *Fidelia*, tho' she had often seen me when she came to visit *Cleanthe*, yet was an absolute
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Stranger to my Affairs and Circumstances, as she remains to this day ; but notwithstanding that, my being a Favourite of *Cleante's*, gave me a sufficient Title to a place in her Esteem. Therefore she readily promised me all the assistance she was capable of, nor did she fail of being as good as her Word ; for in a few days she came and told me that since I was so resolutely bent on it, she believed she could recommend me to a Lady, who she was well assur'd would for her sake use me with all the good Manners I could expect, and failed not to give me that Excellent Character of your Ladyship, which I have since so fully Experienced you justly deserve. Thus, Madam, I have given you an exact and faithful detail of every thing remarkable that has happened to me, and fear that the length as well as the Melancholiness of my Story has quite tired out your Patience. When *Isabella* had in this manner related to me the many hardships she had undergone on the Account of her Love to *Polydor*, I could not but Simpathize with her ; and tho' I had always a greater Respect for her, then was usual for a Mistress to bear to a Servant, yet when I had heard who she was, and the unhappy Occasion that had brought these Misfortunes upon her, I was perfectly

fectly uneasy to entertain her any longer as my Servant, nor did I, when we were together in private; but she begged of me that I would not alter my carriage towards her when any Company was present, for she declared that it was her utmost Wishes whilst she remained in that Condition, to be so happy as to continue with me till the return of her beloved *Polydor*. Whilst we were discoursing in this Manner, news was brought me that Sir S----G---th was according to his promise come to pay me a visit; this put me into a Confusion, but I had not one Moments Time to Consult with *Isabella* what to say to him, for the Servant that brought me Word of his being below, was no sooner gone out of the Room, than I saw Sir *Samuel*, and my Father with him come in. I strait cast my Eyes on the Doctor, and observed that the Air of his Countenance was much altered, from the Stern Gravity of a Physician, to the mild Complaisance of a Friend; and he came to the Bed-side several times with a design to have told me how he had ordered matters as to the Affair of sending to *Torismond*, but finding it impossible for him to speak to me without being taken Notice of, and over-heard by my Father, he could not tell what to do: At length this lucky

thought came into his head, he call'd for Pen, Ink and Paper, but instead of writing any farther Prescriptions, he wrote a Letter to me, wherein he gave me an Account how he had Managed every thing, and begged of me that I would be easie till the Servant he had sent should return, who he questioned not in the least but would bring *Torismond* along with him. When *Sir Samuel* had writ this, he folded it up in the Nature of a Bill, and gave it to *Isabella*, and desired her to step to the Apothecaries with it her self; for, said he, they will make more hast if you go with it, than if you send it by any other Person, and believe me, your Mistress's Case will not admit of any delay. When he had thus dispatched her out of the Room, he came again to me, and desired me not to be frighted at my Illness, for said he, Madam, trust to me, and I warrant you in a small time you will be well, for I now find that your Condition is not so Desperate as I thought it when I saw you last; thus did he Comfort me the best he could without being suspected by my Father, at length he took his leave of me, but as he was going out my Father stopt him and told him he designed forthwith to leave the Town, as believing that the Change of Air would

would Conduce much to my Health ; when the Doctor had heard him, he told him he would have him wholly lay aside all thoughts of that kind for the present, for said he, if you offer to move her yet awhile, it may cost her, her Life, Sir *Samuel* having said this, my Father told him, if he thought so, he would defer it for some time longer, and desired him not to neglect visiting me as often as it was needful. The Doctor was no sooner gone but *Isabella* returned, and when my Father left the Room she shewed me the Letter ; I was wonderfully pleased with his Wit in deceiving my Father so to his Face, and as glad to find he espoused my Cause so warmly ; nor did I hide my Satisfaction from *Isabella* but as I had before severely reprimanded her for making my Affairs known to Sir *Samuel*, so I now as heartily thanked her for it ; and indeed found my self mightily pleased in my Mind, by what the Doctor had both said and wrote. Thus, *Isabella* and I, uninterruptedly passed away our time either in Condoling our Misfortunes, or in Comforting each other. The day following my Father came to see me, and finding me much better, he told me he would go and make a visit to the Duke of M----- I was glad to hear him say so, and

and persuaded him to it, being in hopes that the Doctor would come in his Absence, that so I might have my freedom in talking with him; and my Wishes had in some Measure their desired effect. For my Father's Chariot was scarce gone from the Door, when Sir *Samuel's* stop'd, and lighting out he brought another Gentleman with him up to my Chamber; when I saw them first enter the Room, for my Part, I was so vexed and ashamed, that I could not tell what to say: But told the Doctor I wonder'd he should offer to bring a Stranger into a sick Person's Presence; after I had shewed my Resentment to Sir *Samuel*, I began to make an Apology to the Gentleman for the Disorder every thing was in; but received no Answer from him, but a most obsequious Bow; I wonder'd a little at it, but was soon put out of my Astonishment by the Doctor, who told me the Gentleman was a Foreigner and newly come over; and could not as yet speak *English*, nor did he understand any thing of our Language; so that your Ladyship says he, may without Reserve speak what you please before him: As to my bringing him with me, I hope you will not be angry, for he is desirous to be Instructed in our Art; therefore, as long as he stays here, I shall carry him with me
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where-ever I go. When he had thus Satisfied me, we fell a talking of *Torismond* without taking any farther Notice of the Stranger, and for my Part I believed that all the Doctor had told me of him was true. Thus without the least reserve I said what I thought proper, at length Sir S-----G-----*th* told me that the Servant he sent to *Torismond* the day before, was returned and brought him word that my Lord would be in Town in three or four days, and desired in the mean while that I would wait on you with this Letter ; I took it up and Reading it, found that he could with a great deal of ease part from me, for after he had wished me a good Journey, he desired I would leave his Books, I Mentioned in my Letter, with the Doctor, for he feared if I quitted the Town with that Expedition I intimated, it would not be in his Power to see me before I left it ; this slight way which he had made use of to express himself in, made me almost Distracted, and without considering that there was any one by but *Isabella*, I gave way to my resentment, and fell to upbraiding her in the most violent manner that could be, for having persuaded me to write to him ; see here said I, what your advice has exposed

fed me to, since *Torismond* flights me, but tho' he has in this unhandsome Manner shewn his want of that respect he has so often sworn to me, I will no longer stay to be his Jest, but persuade my Father to leave *London* to Morrow, by which Means I may shun the sight of that ungrateful Wretch! Who I doubt not but as he contemns my Love, will have the frontless assurance to Triumph in his Conquest. Thus did I terrifie my self, notwithstanding the Doctor and *Isabella* endeavoured by all the Arguments they could to Compose me, but the more they said, instead of Pacifying me, it rather augmented my grief, and I uttered the bitterest Exclamations I could first against the ungrateful *Torismond* (as I thought him,) and then against my self for my lately committed Folly; at last I begg'd Sir *Samuel* to leave me, and take with him that Stranger, who I supposed he had brought with him for no other Reason; but to be a Witness of my imprudence but the supposed Stranger saying something in *Italian* (which Language I did not understand) to the Doctor, there arose a Dispute between them, which raised the Passion of the pretended Foreigner, so far as to make him forget himself, and he thus spoke in *English* to Sir
Samuel

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thus spoke in *English* to Sir *Samuel* ; tho' I know you have a Value for me, and that what you persuade me to, is from your Zeal to me: Yet Pardon me, my dear Friend, if I tell you, it is not in my Power any longer to conceal my self from my Charming *Calista* ; for believe me, I have Acted the greatest Constraint on my self that ever was done by Man, thus long to forbear throwing my self at her Feet, and beging leave to Kifs her Hand ; then without saying any thing more to the Doctor , or staying for his Reply : He came directly to the Place where I sat, and threw himself on his Knees before me, and catching hold of my Hand, Kissed it with so great an Extasie, that I am not capable to express it. What he had said, together with this Action of his, put me into such a Consternation, that for some time I knew not what to say ; and tho' both by his Words and Actions, I thought it could be no other Person than *Torismond*, yet he had with so much Art disguised himself, that I declare to you, I did not know him, tho' I fix'd my Eyes full upon him ; which he perceiving, said, Dear *Calista*, I beg you at once to lay aside your Surprize, as well as Resentment, and hearken to the Rea-

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sons that induced me to appear before you in this Manner; and I hope you will not take it ill when I tell you the first and greatest, was Self-Interest; for tho' my good Friend Sir *Samuel*, gave me Reason to believe you had some Value for me, yet I could not be vain enough to give Credit to what he said, without having it from your own Mouth; therefore I made use of this Disguise, as well as the Letter, that I might undiscovered by you, both see and hear what effect it had; and I beg you to believe that I now Esteem my self the happiest Man Living, since I find my self so much in your Favour. Now I have told you the first Motive that obliged me to this; I shall proceed to the Second, which is to conceal my self from all my Acquaintance in Town, I having taking my leave of them for some time; therefore would not have them as yet know of my Return, nor should anything have brought me, but the surprising News of your immediate going into the Country, and I am resolv'd to remain Incog for a while. His Talk, together with the Surprise of seeing him, had so far depriv'd me of all Thought, as not to take notice of the Posture he had all this time been in; but a little coming
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to my self I begged him to rise, which he absolutely refused; saying, he would remain there, till I had granted him my Pardon for the concern his Letter gave me, and promised him a Continuance of the Respect I had shewed for him, when I believed him Absent, I consider'd for a Minute or two with my self, what Answer to make him; at length I believed it wou'd be in vain to offer to deny what I but just before so openly declared; therefore, I reach'd out my Hand, and told him he might rise, and be assured that as he was the first Person who had gained a Conquest over my Heart, so he should ever keep it, unless by Ill-usage he forc'd me to recal it. He satisfied me, I need not fear that by any ungenerous Treatment, he would ever give me Cause to complain. Thus we spent the time in such sort of Discourse, till we heard my Father, who was just come in triping up Stairs; then *Torismond* was obliged to resume his Disguise again; and when the old Gentleman came into the Room, he appeared as if he did not understand him; after my Father and the Doctor had paid each other the usual Compliments, he began to enquire of me who that other Person was, but Sir *Samuel* prevented my Answering,

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by telling him the same formal Story, which he had at first told me ; and when they had talked together a little while, they took their leaves : My Father perceiving me to be pretty brisk, fate down in order to divert me, with telling me what News he had heard Abroad ; after he had said every thing that he thought Entertaining to me, he began to Extol *Torismond's* Person, who under that strange Disguise had gained abundantly in his Favour ; but *Isabella* seeing I grew Impatient at my Father's staying so long, told him, that she feared too much Discourse would do me harm ; besides said she, as this is the first Day of my Lady's rising since she has been Ill, we must not too far rely on her being so brisk, for by keeping her too long up, she may Relaspe ; which I have often heard the Physician's say, is more dangerous then the first Indisposition : My Father commended *Isabella* for her Care of me, and took his leave of us for that Night, the remainder of which, we passed in talking of *Torismond* ; and poor *Isabella* Simpathiz'd so much with me, in the Joy I received, as in some Measure to forget her own Troubles ; for I had never seen her so lively as she appeared this Night, since she lived with

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with me; and we passed many Days in great Felicity together, for by the Doctor's means, I constantly enjoyed my dear *Torismond's* Company; but at last finding there was no possibility for him in this Disguise to gain his Point; and my Father seeing me every Day grow better, and better, began a fresh to talk of speedily leaving *London*; this made *Torismond* resolve to throw it off and appear in Publick in Town; therefore he acquainted me with his Design, and the next Day after he had made his Appearance at Court, where he thought it his Duty to pay his first Respects, he came to wait on my Father, who welcomed him to Town in a very civil Manner; but after their Compliments were over, *Torismond* enquired after me, and was informed that I had for some time been Confin'd to my Chamber by a dangerous Fit of Sicknefs; he appeared much concern'd at what was told him, and asked if it wou'd be improper for him to pay me a Visit, which to his great Joy was Answered by my Father, that he wou'd send a Servant to my Chamber to see if I could admit of it; the Servant no sooner came and acquainted me that the Lord S----- was with my Father, and desired

fired to be admitted to my Chamber, but I bid him return back with my Duty to my Father, and Service to my Lord, and tell them I should be glad of their Company; when they had received this Message, with all speed they hastened to me; but the Moment I cast my Eyes on *Torismond*, I felt my Heart beat with new and more violent Motions than I had ever before done; and in short, he appeared with new Charms to me, for he had not spared by Cost to Adorn his Person, which as you are well acquainted with him, I need not tell you he wanted nothing to set him off. When he had saluted me, and Condolored my Illness, they sat down, and my Lord told us all the Pleasures he had enjoyed in the Country; whilst we were talking to Compleat the agreeable Conversation, Word was brought that the Doctor was below Stairs; I was very glad to hear it, and chid the Servant for detaining him there; he no sooner came into the Room, but *Torismond* with abundance of Complaisance offered to leave us; but tho' I was glad to see the Doctor, yet I was resolved not to lose that Company, which was so dear to me, and which I preferred to all the World; I therefore desired both Sir *Samuel* and *Torismond*, to sit down,
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and told them if it was not a Constraint upon them, to pass an Evening in a Ladies Chamber, I should be glad of their Company. My Father who had not in some Weeks seen me so chearful, was mightily pleased at it; and the Gentlemen said they would gladly do any thing to divert me, and indeed I may with Justice say, I had not in a considerable time spent an Evening with so much Pleasure as I did this; not only on the Account of enjoying *Torismond's* Company, but likewise the Doctor's, for all must allow who know him, that Sir *Samuel* is a Man not only of the most Polite Conversation, and refin'd Taste, but the most facetious Companion. They continued that Evening with me till Ten a Clock, and then fearing a longer stay might incommode me as to my Health, they took their leaves, tho' my Father would not part with *Torismond* till he had made him a Promise of repeating his Visit the next Day. After the old Gentleman had waited on them to their Coach, he returned to my Chamber to bid me good Night, but before he left me, with a very stern Countenance thus spoke to me: *Calista* says he, tho' I am always glad to see you Chearful, yet I can't Answer the Duty of a Parent, if I don't repre-

reprimand you when I find you in an error, and must tell you that I was surprized at several freedoms which passed to Night between you and my Lord S---; therefore I desire you to have for the future a greater guard on your Actions, and not by an unthinking Levity expose your self either to the Censure or Temptation of any Man; for tho', my Dear, I set a true value on you, and am able to give you a Fortune, sufficient to make you happy with some Honest Country Gentleman, yet I would not have you once entertain a Notion that any Pretensions, which my Lord S--- may make to you, tends to any other design than your Ruin, for continued he, it is not the way of any of the Quality to value any one but for their Fortune; and you shall not in an Age, hear of a Match among them, where Money is not the most powerful Motive. I heard him out, with all the Impatience in the World, and when he had done speaking, I told him that what he had said gave me the utmost surprize, and I was sorry, that my having been a little Brisk, should occasion him, in this manner, to reprimand me, and at the same time assured him, that I would have a greater Guard on my Actions for the future, and I hope, says I, that I have not yet

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yet been guilty of any thing which can in the least give my Lord S----- any Ill thought of me; my Father perceiving that what he had said, mov'd a Concern in me, bid me not be uneasie, but for the future, dear *Calista* said he, be more on your Guard; so with this good Admonition he took his leave of me, and indeed I was very glad when I saw his back, turned: And *Isabella* and I had our freedom of having the second Pleasure of rehearsing that Evening's Chat; tho' for my Part, I was vexed that I had not Conduct enough to conceal the Pleasure I felt in *Torismond's* Company from my Fathers: But however, I resolv'd hereafter to be more Circumspect in my Behaviour; when we had talked of *Torismond* for some time, and *Isabella* thought I had all the Pleasure I could by that Conversation; she gave me a Letter which he at parting had slip'd into her Hand, this obliging Present, with the artful Manner of his Delivering it, was doubly welcome to me, for when I believ'd I had said every thing of him that could be thought off, from any thing that had pass'd; to find his new Subject for fresh Chat, was agreeable beyond my Expectation, and gave me so many new Notions, as made me keep poor *Isabella*

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waking all the rest of the Night ; for tho' I had nothing new to say, yet I took a Pleasure in only repeating the Name of *Torismond*. The next Day I thought fit to appear Gayer then I had done for some considerable while before ; and *Torismond* failed not to come to Dinner, according to his Promise ; we continued this sort of Conversation a Fortnight or thereabouts, till I grew so well as to quit my Chamber, and go amongst the Company, tho' none was agreeable nor nothing appeared Pleasant to me, when my Beloved *Torismond* was not present ; and by what means I can't tell, for I never saw him, but I imagined there was some new Charm added to him. Thus did I indulge my self in my violent Love to him, to my own Ruin, as you shall hear. He continued his frequent Visits, and I manag'd a Farce so Artfully to deceive my Father, that I bid *Torismond* talk of some Lady he was Passionately in Love with, whom he had left in the Contry, and that he must hasten down to her : He took my Advice and the Artifice succeeded so well on the good old Man, that from the Time that *Torismond* began to Talk in this Manner, he never after that suspected his having a Design on me ; so we had free
Liberty

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Liberty to Converse as we thought fit ; and I often went Abroad with him in his Coach to take the Air, accompanied only by *Isabella* : But my being now perfectly Recovered from my late Illness, made my Father begin a fresh to talk of leaving the Town ; and in order to make me apprised of it, he came one Morning into my Chamber and said, *Calista* I have long waited for your Recovery, and impaired my own Health by staying so long in Town ; therefore without any further Evasions or Excuses whatsoever. I command you to get all things in readiness to go with me into the Country by the middle of next Week at farthest. When he had said this, he immediately left me, and in greater Distraction then it is possible for you to imagine ; after I had for some few Moments given way to that Passion which the old Gentleman's talk had put me into ; by *Isabella's* persuasions I began to calm my Resentment, and Consult with her what was to be done in this Exigence ; but just as we were in the height of our Projects, some body rap'd at the Door, proving as we wish'd it might be *Torismond*, I was glad to see him ; but the Joy which I express'd, was not sufficient to hide from him the Concern that

my Father's Talk had given me ; which he perceiving said, my dearest *Calista*, what is it that has thus Shagreen'd you ; I told him I wonder'd what he meant, but *Isabella* seeing I would not discover the Cause of my Discontent ; and at the same time knowing I should be glad to have him acquainted with it, made no scruple of telling him all that had happen'd ; and when she had ended her Relation. *Torismond* seemed equally uneasie with me, but begged I would not torment him with the fear of being snatch'd away unawares from him ; for who, said he, can Answer for old Men's Humours ; perhaps when we think there is time enough for us to contrive some means for you to avoid going ; he may take it in his Head to carry you away on a sudden ; therefore my Dear *Calista*, consent with *Isabella* to go along with me now, whilst it is in your Power, and not when it is too late, with you had done it, for by so doing you will make both your self and me Unhappy ; whereas, if you will but trust your self with me, my Charmer may be assur'd that nothing I am capable of shall be left undone to make you easie the remaining Part of your Life. Thus did he Argue with me, but to no purpose, for tho' I really

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really thought him the most agreeable Man I had ever seen, yet I could not think of leaving my Family : Therefore told him that as there was no way for me to enjoy that Happiness he talk'd of, but with the loss of my Honour : I was resolved to stifle a Passion which must be attended with such fatal Consequences, and begged him for the future not so much as to harbour any farther Thought of me : He was going to make me an Answer, which I perceiving, step'd into my dressing Room and shut the Door ; this Action of mine, together with what I had said, so astonished him, that for a few Minuits deprived him of all Reason ; but a little recovering himself, he desired *Isabella* to acquaint me, he begged Pardon for what he had said, and desired that I would only permit him to see me again before he went ; I chid *Isabella* for offering to ask me such a Question, and obstinately persisted in my Resolution of not having any thing more to say to *Torismond*, on any Account : Therefore he left our House in the utmost Perplexity ; after he was gone, I began to say all the bitter Things against him which my Passion Suggested ; but *Isabella* strove to moderate my Resentment, by telling me she believed I had mistaken him, for she

she durst say, he meant nothing but what was Honourable; and as you know we are easily persuaded to believe what we wish, so I grew more Moderate, and my Anger cool'd apace. And I was willing to hear what Reasons *Isabella* had to offer in his behalf, which when she had given me, I thought my self to blame for having thus rashly Accused *Torismond*, of what she said he told her, was never in his Thoughts. By that time we had done Talking, my Father came Home, and with him *Torismond*, whom he had met at a Gentleman's House, and would force him to come to Dine with him; I wonder'd to see him so quick returned, and could not at first imagine how my Father light of him, but was soon put out of my Pain by this Account which I have given you at Dinner. *Torismond* carried himself with a World of Respect towards me, but seem'd to have a particular Guard on all his Words and Actions for fear of offending me: After we had Dined, my Father told *Torismond* he must beg his Pardon, for said he, I am obliged to go out; and hope the hurry I am in to get Things in order to leave the Town, will plead my Excuse; and when I am so happy as to be settled according to my desire

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desire in the Country : I shall have nothing to do but to enjoy my Friends, and shall take it as a particular Honour if your Lordship will afford me your Company, when you can spare time from Court : *Torismond* thanked him for his kind Invitation, and withal beg'd he would take this freedom without any farther Apology ; but said he, if you will give your Consent and Madam *Calista* is not engaged, I shall think it a Favour if she will except of my Coach and Company to take the Air. My Father who as I before told you, had heard *Torismond* talk of the Lady whom he pretended to be in Love with ; no longer suspected his having any Design on me, therefore with abundance of Acknowledgments for the Honour he did him, and me in asking of it ; he immediately commanded me to go a long with him wherever he desired, therefore I ordered *Isabella* to get her self ready to attend me, which she did, and *Torismond* seemed impatient till we were going : As soon as we were come into the Coach, the Coach-Man who had before received his Orders, drove with all speed to the Place where we still live, I seemed concerned and desirous to know where he was Driving us, for I perceived we were not going the
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same way we used to Drive; when we had breath'd our selves, *Torismond* saw I was concerned, and therefore begged me to be easie, for said he, my Charming *Calista* need not fear that I will carry her any where, that she shall not be safe, and he laughing said, I am sure *Isabella* will be Security for me, that I will not do any thing that shall give you Cause to Repent; therefore I beg my Angel to be easie, and believe you are now with the Man who Esteems you above all the Blessings that this World affords: By that time *Torismond* had ended this obliging Speech, the Coach stoped, I had been so intent on hearking after what he had said, as not to mind the Way we came, nor did I think it a fit Time to ask Questions, he being already a lighted, and waited for me to give him my Hand to be Conducted in Doors, which I did, and found the Place Beautiful, beyond what could be expected by the Appearance it made on the Out-side, he gave us all the Diversion that could be had: At last I perceiving it began to grow Dark, told him I feared we should be belated, therefore desired that we might be going; he again begged me to be as easie as if I were at Home, and with all desired I would not talk

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talk of going tell I had pertook of a small Colation which he had ordered to be prepared; for tho' said he, it is not in my Power to Entertain my Charming *Calista* as I would do in this Place; yet I must beg of you to except of such a Treat as I can hear give you. I told him I did not in the least question the goodness of his Provision, but feared that should I stay later, it would be Dangerous going Home; beside said I, my Father will be frighted out of his Wits for me. *Torismond* perceiving that all fair means would be to no purpose, and being resolv'd to Accomplish his Design, had Recourse to some sleeping Drops, which he remember'd he had in a Closet; he therefore step'd and reaching them, mixed them in a Glass of fine Cordial-Water; which he recommended to me, and I not suspecting any harm, Drank it off; it soon had the desired Effect, for in less than half an Hour, it threw me into so sound a Sleep, that there was no Waking me; notwithstanding *Isabella* (as she afterwards told me) did her utmost endeavour so to do. *Torismond* having thus far gained his Point, had nothing now left to do, but to win *Isabella* to his Party in order thereto; he made her Drink a pretty deal of Wine, and what with that and a good

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Bribe

Bribe, he got her Consent to his taking me in his Arms, and between them Sleeping as I was, they undress'd and laid me in *Torismond's* Bed; after he had done with *Isabella*, he ordered a Maid Servant to shew her the Room that was prepared for her; then let no time slip before he came to Bed to me, the Composing Draught I had taking had so strange an effect as to keep me in a dead Sleep, till three a Clock the next Morning, when I began a little to recover from the Trance in which I had been layed, and was going to examine where I was, but was soon put out of my Doubt, by *Torismond's* eagerly taking me in his Arms, and saying, now it is, that I Esteem my self the happiest Mortal breathing, as having that Woman in my Possession, for whom I would forego the greatest Happiness in the World to gain. This Speech of his, and the fright I was in, put me in such a Condition, as for a few Moments bereft me of my Senses; but when I came to my self, I screamed out with all the Violence imaginable, and call'd *Isabella*, but all in vain, for he had so craftily laid his Scheme as to Place her, and all his own Servants at the other end of the House: Therefore when I found that no body came to my Assistance

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Assistance; I fell to upbraiding him, whilst he by fine Speeches endeavour'd to appease me: I strove to get from him, but to no purpose, for as he had me there, he was resolv'd to keep me; at length I grew a little Calmer, and in a cool Manner told him how Ungenerous it was to force, or betray a Friends Child; besides said I, don't you believe that when my Father misses me, he will require me at your Hands, as he knows I went out with you; nor said I, would I have you believe that your Quality will screen you from his Resentment. *Torismond* reply'd, as to your first Obejection to my Love on the Account of Friendship, I would have you believe, that no body has a greater Regard to that Virtue then my self; but I must tell my dear *Calista*, that my Love to you, far surpasses all the Respect I ever had for your Father; so that there can be no Objection to that Point; and as to his calling me to an Account for you, I shall find an Answer sufficient to Convince him, that I know nothing of you; tho' I think the kind concern my Dearest shews for me, gives me hopes that her Anger is a little Abated: Thus by turning my Words to a contrary Sense to what I meant them, he put it out of my Power to shew my Resentment.

ment. And we lay talking till it was light; when I heard the Servants stirring, I desir'd he would let *Isabella* be call'd, which he immediately order'd; and she having considered of her Folly in Consenting to let *Torismond* come to Bed to me, durst not at first come in, but hearing me again call her, she ventur'd to appear: And I fell to Reproaching her, she had little to say in her Defence, but begged me to be easie, and said she, Madam you need not fear but my Lord will treat you with that good Manners which your Quality deserves. This talk of hers put me into a fresh Passion, and I ask'd her what she meant; said I, what do you talk of his treating me with Civility, do you believe that because I have been Betray'd into a Fault, that I design to continue here; no, you are mistaken, I will Rise this instant and go Home, for I had better at first meet my Father's Anger, then after I have lived with a Man till he is weary of me, and his own vicious Inclinations satisfied, be then forced to Sue for that Favour which I can't hope to obtain: She was going to make me an Answer, but I bid her be Silent and immediately Dress me. When the Dispute was over between us, I am sorry says *Torismond*, my Dear should have

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have so mean an Opinion of her own Charms, as to doubt their not being of force enough to Confine even the greatest Libertine; tho' that is a Character I assure you I never deserved; therefore, beg my Angel not once to entertain a Thought that there is a possibility that I should ever flight you: All he said was to no purpose, for I stiffly continued my Resolution; and he finding that, said, I beg you to stay here till I have been to Town and seen your Father, that by my seeing him, and hearing what he says, you may be the better provided of an Excuse, for your staying from Home last Night; for since it is your final Resolution to Return, I would have you keep as free from Censure as possible: I approv'd of what he said, and this Argument had so much force with me, as to make me agree to continue there till his Return, I desired him if he had any Respect for me, to shew it in his Expedition: He took his leave of me and begged I would use the same freedom there, as if I were in my own House, and at the same time he called to him a Woman, who seemed to be a head Servant, and order'd her that nothing might be neglected that I should desire to be done, and bid her observe me as her Lady in every

every Respect; having as he thought giving all Orders necessary to make me easie tell his Return; he then again took leave of me, tho' not without a seeming Regret. When he was gone *Isabella* perswaded me not to be uneasie, for said she, I warrant you Madam, that my Lord will make his Story so plausible to your Father, that with the good Opinion he naturally has of him, he will not longer suspect your being with him: I told her that was not the thing I scrupl'd, but *Isabella* said I, do you think the Crime it is to indulge a lawless Passion, for tho' I own to you, that *Torismond* is the only Man in the World with whom I could like to pass the rest of my Life, yet we must consider the Censures of the World: *Isabella* having a mind to persuade me to make that easie, which she foresaw was like to be my lot, used all the persuasive Arguments that could be to Reconcile me; and to what she had already said: Added, I beg Madam you would remember that it is not in your Power to live without *Torismond*; therefore You should not by the vulgar Notion of Marriage make your self uneasie, since that Ceremony is nothing but a piece of Formality, introduced on purpose to bring Profit to the Church;

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Church; and I think that Love is much more to be Esteem'd, which has no other Motive but mutual Affection, rather than when any Constraint is put upon our Passions, and I am sure it is for the generality more lasting. Thus did she Tattle thinking to divert me, and her Chat had the good Success to give me some ease in my Mind; so I passed the rest of the Morning in rambling over the House and Gardens, and by that Time *Torismond* returned to give me an Account of what had passed between my Father and him, which he did, just as I shall relate it to you. To let my Dearest, says he, see that no Commands she lays upon me can be too hard, I clapped Spurs to my Horse and Arriv'd in *London* in an Hours Time after I left you, and only stopp'd to speak to Sir *Samuel*, from whence I went to your Father's; he received me just in the manner I expected, and immediately demanded you of me; I seem'd surpriz'd at what he said, and in return I ask'd him for you; he told me, he wonder'd much at my Assurance, to come to his House after having Stole his Daughter in that manner; I still pretended to be ignorant of all he said, this put him into a more violent Passion than he at first appear'd to be,

be; I still continued to desire him to explain to me what he meant; did not my Daughter and her Woman, says he, go out with you Yesterday, and since that Time they have neither of them been seen by me, nor any that belongs to me, and now I think it is plain enough, that you know where they are; but if ever I catch them again, I will so strictly confine my disobedient Daughter, that she shall never stir out of my Sight, and for that Confident in her Intrigues, the wicked *Isabella*, I will turn her adrift, nor shall she have one Creature near her she likes; and for you Sir, don't believe your Quality shall protect you from my Revenging my Self for this Injury you have done me: After I had let him say all that his Anger Suggested to him, I told him, he astonish'd me with what he had said, for I assured him that I left you the Day before (when we had took a short ride) at Sir S.G.--b's, and withal told him, I offer'd to wait on you Home, but that you refusing it, I thought it would be ill Manners to press any farther than you was inclined, and that, as near as I could guess, it was about Six when I parted from you. When I had said this, he seem'd to be a little better reconciled to me, but I told him
him

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him I would not leave him without he would step into a Coach and go with me to the Doctor; that he might be assured of the truth of what I had said, as we went along, I Condolled with him the Misfortune of your being gone; and he, repeated threats of the severity which he would inflict if you ever came in his way. We no sooner arriv'd at Sir Samuel's, but he, as I had before desired him; confirmed the old Gentleman in the truth of what I had told him; then he asked my Pardon for having harboured such a thought of me, and with fresh Protestations of Friendship, we parted; I with all the speed I could, hastened to you my Dearest *Calista*, and again beg you to lay aside all thoughts of returning home, where you must expect nothing but the most cruel Treatment; therefore as you Reign sole Mistress of my Heart, I do assure you, I have not one thought nor wish but what is sincerely devoted to your service, and beg if you can be so content, that you will bless me so far as to give me your Promise to pass the rest of your life with me, and be assured I shall esteem my self happier in the Enjoyment of you in this Retirement than it is in the

Power

Power of State and Pomp to make me: What he had told me of the severity of my Father, made me give a little more heed to his Addresses, and betwixt the Intreaties of him and *Isabella*; I was engag'd to a Promise of Continuing with him, which when he had gained, I can't describe the Transports of Joy which he expressed; nor has he since in the least failed of performing to the utmost what he at first professed; for I may with Justice say, that our Loves instead of abating by a long Acquaintance with each other; grow every day more warm, and I pass my days in a far greater Tranquility than I once thought could have been enjoyed in this Life. Thus my Dear *Amaryllis* I have with all sincerity told, you every thing that has happened to me since I first admitted that little Tyrant Love into my Breast; and much fear that my Story instead of diverting, has but added to that Melancholy which you too much give way to, in the absence of your Dear *Philander*, his name together with *Calista's* Leaving off talk, waked me from the serious Thoughts which my Attention to her Story had put me in, and on looking about me, I found it was quite dark, I therefore said, Dear *Calista*, your Discourse has been so Entertaining

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tertainings as to make us not mind how the
 time has passed, and I much fear that by
 being so late in the Garden; you have
 caught cold, thus without any reply from
 her; I took hold of her Hand, and we re-
 turned to the House; we were no sooner
 come in, but some-body rap'd at the Gate,
 and to both our Satisfaction, it prov'd to
 be my *Philander*, and with him *Torismond*,
 after the first Transports of our meeting
 were over; *Philander* invited *Torismond*
 and *Calista* to stay and Sup with us, and
 I began to enquire of them what News
 there was in Town, and particularly at
 Court, from whence they were just come:
Philander immediately reply'd, that for the
 common News of the Town, there was
 none which any honest Gentleman could
 report; for said he, it is so Foolishly de-
 vided into Parties, that you cannot find
 ten Men of an Opinion; as for the Court,
 there has not been so Fine nor Gay a One
 these many Years; but the peculiar Gal-
 lantries that were Acted there, I am not
 able to give you an Account of; for I as-
 sure you in the midst of all those Pleasures
 my Thoughts were so entirely fix'd on you,
 and my uneasiness so great at being from
 you, as took from me all the Satisfaction
 which appeared in every one's Countenance,

but if you are desirous to have the particulars of what Intrigues, have passed this Summer; I would advise you to write to your Beloved Friend *Emilia*, who no doubt can give you full Satisfaction; she having been as I am informed constantly at Court, and never missed being either at the Plays, Balls, or Drawing-Room, and therefore as she is a Lady of a ready Wit and Good Sense, you may believe there has nothing worth regarding, passed her Observation; and no doubt but her Account of it will add Beauty to the Subject; after *Philander* had done speaking, *Torismond* and *Calista* took their leaves of us, and it growing late, we went to Bed, where I considered what I could find to send to you that would be diverting, or in any measure answer the Favour I was about to ask; therefore in the Morning I bethought my self of writing down the Amours of *Calista* and *Torismond* with the Misfortunes of Poor *Isabella* and *Polydor*, and tho' they don't appear with that Gaity which you are for the most part Entertained with, yet if they will but give you an hours Diversion, it will sufficiently answer the end for which they were writ, and I doubt not that tho' I have concealed their Names, when you have read their Story,

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it will fully explain to you who they are, for tho' their Affairs have not been Publickly talked of, nor every Circumstance repeated as I have now done: yet I Remember to have heard whispers of their Desertion, before I my self followed their Example, as I can't expect the Favour of seeing you at our Retirement this Winter, I hope you'll let me have the Pleasure of Conversing with you by Letter, as often as Opportunity will permit, and that in your next, you will oblige me with the particulars of what Gallantries have fallen under your Observation, for next to that quick Wit, and Good turn of Sense which I Discover in all your Letters, nothing can be more diverting to me than the Account I beg you to oblige me with; in hopes of which Favour I have nothing more to say, but to wish you all the pleasures that the Town can afford you; Tho' for my part, I declare for Rural Delights; and can affirm by some Experience, that,

Among the many Pleasures which we Prove,

None are so real, as the Joys of Love.

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